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RIFLE-CLUBS

AND

VOLUNTEER CORPS.

BY

W. H. RUSSELL,

"THE TIMES" SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON:

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FARRINGTON STREET.

NEW YORK: 56, WALKER STREET.

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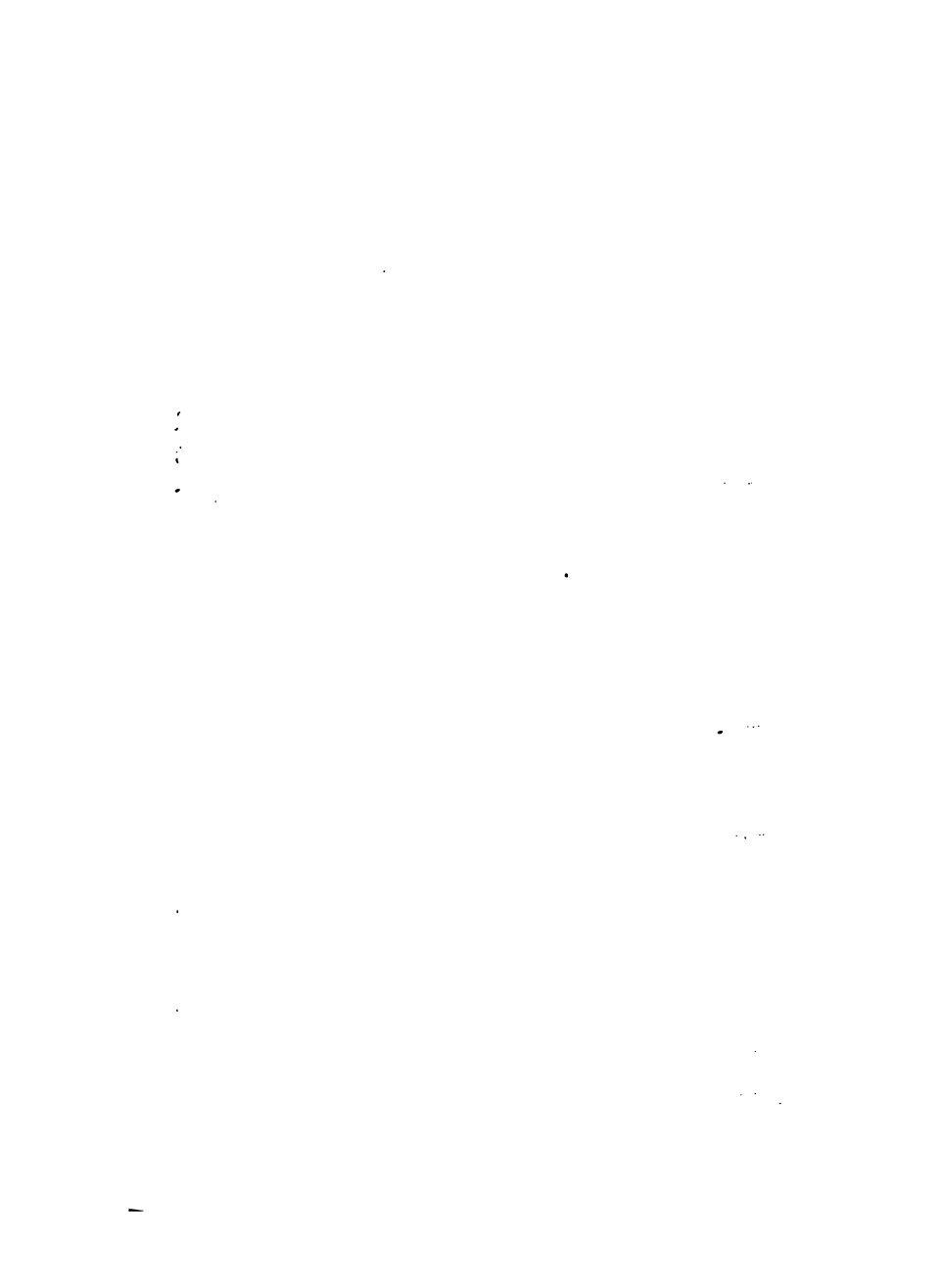
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PREFACE.

IN the following pages the writer, deeply impressed by the importance of the great national movement which is now taking place in England, seeks to render palatable and serviceable to his countrymen such fruits of experience as a civilian could gather in the course of three campaigns wherein the rifle and riflemen had their fullest development and largest use.

To others better qualified by precise professional knowledge, he leaves the task of specific instruction respecting the use of the rifle and actual practice in the field, as well as the process of incorporation and self-creation of Corps of Volunteers; but on those and other matters he has suggestions to offer and observations to make which will be found, he hopes, of some value, and he is the more encouraged to do so by the fact that hitherto those to whom he has alluded have not, to any great extent, given us the benefit of their teaching. National instincts seldom err. We feel the danger in the air, and he is a fool who does not prepare for its coming.



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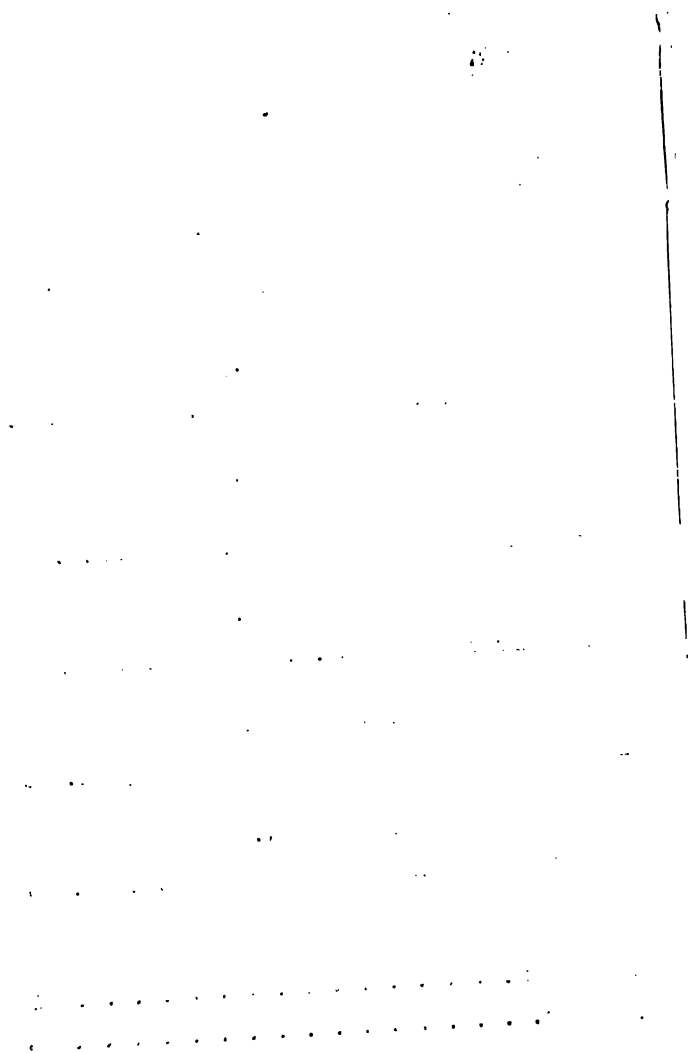
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ON RIFLE CLUBS,

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE right to carry arms—in former times the right of every free man, distinguished as such from the serf—must, in modern days, be modified by circumstances and considerations of public polity or internal police. The association of armed men in bodies or companies is, of course, illegal, unless it be sanctioned by the constituted authorities of the country, or by the supreme law of the national will; and even the instinct of a common danger to liberty and country cannot justify the formation, legally speaking, of corps which are intended to meet a contingency of that kind, however near or probable it may be. The moment that the foot of an enemy presses the soil of a free land, all such nice distinctions disappear, and every man has the right—and the duty—to fight, although regular troops would in all likelihood consider themselves authorized by martial precedent to treat such patriots as if they were robbers and marauders. The Government have, however, resolved at the present moment to permit the creation of Local Volunteer Corps, which are to be armed with the rifle as the most effective weapon in the hands of

such bodies, and the country, animated by a sense of coming or possible dangers, is rapidly availing itself of the permission and countenance of the Sovereign.

Now all the youth of England are on fire,
And silken dalliance in the wardrobe lies.

The nation is making a great movement to aid the Government in its self-defence. The Cadmus teeth spring up lustily. The martial spirit which lies under all our Quaker garb of commerce, cotton, trade, and manufactures listens eagerly to the trumpet-note, and the only question which would present itself for solution to the Government in the face of new complications or immediate prospect of war, would be the extent to which the formation of Volunteer Corps should be allowed to go. To the theoretical politician there would be other considerations requiring grave thought and argument. Admirable in many respects as the Volunteer Corps—those “free rifles”—may be, there can be no doubt that the consciousness of a new kind of strength, or the belief in its possession, will infuse an amount of passion into her political relations which may render the work of British diplomatists more difficult than ever. I am not one of those who think that a state of readiness for war is the best preservative of peace. On the contrary, I believe that a King or a State with a fine fleet or an efficient army is continually tempted to seek occasion for the display of their qualities in active service. I do not desire to see the petulant, excitable, irritated diplomacy which has characterized some American administrations, under the influence of national prejudices, imitated by any British minister. And yet the United States, with a very insignificant regular *army*, and with but a respectable squadron of steam

frigates as a navy, conscious of her two million Volunteers on shore, and of her ready privateers at sea, holds her head loftily in the face of the mightiest monarchies, and maintains the most self-asserting, if not the most aggressive policy in the world. A country with a large Volunteer force at its disposal is apt to exaggerate its strength, just as a nation with a large regular army is disposed to underrate the resources of a less warlike neighbour, and to form an erroneous estimate of its relative power. But situated as Great Britain is among the nations of Europe, her Volunteers are a purely defensive force; and however numerous they may be, their effect on our relations with foreign powers would be indirect. In case of a real struggle with a great military leader who might succeed in invading any portion of the United Kingdom, our Volunteers, whatever their courage and devotion, would require the conjoined action of regular troops to enable them to cope successfully with a disciplined enemy. The creation of Volunteer Corps does not by any means diminish the necessity which exists to provide for the general safety of the Empire by a sufficient and well-organized regular army, and by a trained militia. The former bodies are useful adjuncts now; they might become the *spes ultima* of our race in some glorious field; but it would be unwise to rely on them *solely*, as protagonists in battle, as the sure safeguards of our coasts, as the only guardians of our fields—the only protectors of our homes and liberties. “We have a million Volunteers,” is a remark which could not be heard with indifference by any statesman, but it does not convey to the mind of a pure soldier all the dreadful significance which it might bear in the council chamber of civilians.

It is of little moment to refer to the supposed cases

in which Volunteers have acted with partial success against regular troops. I have seen encouraging allusions made to the part played by Volunteers in the American war of Independence; but in reality America was overrun by our troops, badly handled and miserably led, till such time as the leaders of the Great Revolution, or Rebellion as it would have been styled if unsuccessful, had raised regular regiments to oppose our own, and had, by experience and exposure, cas hardened their raw levies, and turned them into well-disciplined soldiery. Before the outbreak the States had their troops in tolerable order and great strength.

In 1787, Massachusetts, as we read in Bancroft, had thirty-two regiments of its militia on its "alarm list," with 45,000 men, of whom more than 37,000 *were by law obliged to train*. There were 9000 provincials from New England, New York, and New Jersey, of whom so many rangers were "armed with firelock and hatchet, and dressed like woodmen."

The American Volunteers in the last war with the United States, however, did not prevent a small British corps landing on her shores, marching to the capital of the Confederation, and humiliating a great people by a hostile occupation of its Capitolium and the destruction of its arsenal. The Tyrolese, who are mentioned as if they actually beat the French out of their country, were obliged to yield inch by inch before the attack of regular troops, though the patriots were fighting in their own tremendous defiles, in a country most unfavourable to regulars.

The Schleswig-Holstein Volunteers, aided by much fervid studentism and patriotism, were steadily beaten by the Danish troops in 1848; and German levies from school, college, and university, spite of song

and immortal devotion, failed ever to arrest the tramp of the French legions over Fatherland—and dying, died in vain. In Circassia, where every man is a born soldier, one of the most strenuous, resolute, heroic struggles ever maintained by freemen against despotism, which wants but the *vates sacer* to render it immortal, is feebly closing in submission.

Far be it from me to seek to chill or stifle the generous glow which every Englishman should feel in his country's cause, conscious that he is protector of the holy shrine in which burns the sole fixed light of Constitutional freedom ; but I would by all means in my power try to prepare him for his full fitness in the conflict, if the tide of war should ever reach our shores. And I would warn him against overweening confidence—the curse and the eating cancer of all the empires that ever yet rose to greatness and then fell before the sword. I would tell him that without discipline the most heroic valour, the purest devotion, the most lofty and stubborn courage, are of small avail ; and that he must submit to a little patient training, to a few hours' light drill for a few days, to learn a few simple rules, to know how to act in concert with his fellows ; in a word, to know something—and very little will do—of real soldiering ere his magnificent physical and moral qualities as a soldier can be turned to their proper account in the service of his country. In difficult operations of real war, corps of ill-drilled or undrilled Volunteers would become a rabble of riflemen, unfit for combination in any plan of attack or defence, unsuited to line formations, in the way of the regular troops and in their own, ignorant of the movements around them, and unable to know or tell whether they should advance, retreat, or stand fast ; encouraging the enemy by their apparent confusion, looseness,

and irregular movements, and embarrassing their friends by going into places where they had no business to be. A little military discipline, habits of obedience to their officers, and willing submission could soon overcome those disadvantages; but at first—and that *first* might be in the face of a wary, bold, and desperate enemy—the absence of such qualities might prove fatal to the Volunteers, and to all they held dear on earth.

We are too ready to indulge in visions of squadrons of squires charging in loose order over the meadow, very much as they would go at a good burst down the Vale of Aylesbury, and to suppose that such a chivalrous dash as Englishmen well mounted, and with hearts that never yet quailed in battle, would make, must be irresistible; but the Minié bullet is no respecter of persons, and race, and ancestry, and courage would fall fast at every stride. Well may the squires charge, but the crouching figures among the green trees fire low and well, and in another moment they are moulded into a bristling square, with a wall of bayonets no hunter can clear. What can spirited, untrained horses do in face of the rolling fire? For outpost duties, for reconnoitring, watching the enemy's movements, such gallant Volunteers would be invaluable; but until they had learned their duty as light cavalry, they would be unable to cope with men accustomed to act together and to obey orders, and it would be hazardous work to lead them even against a baggage guard, because in all probability they would listen only to the dictates of their own courage, and waste their lives in isolated and useless acts of devotion. However, it is of little advantage to speculate on the uses or abuses of those cavalry corps, inasmuch as up to the present time there is no movement made to form any of them, and we

must be content with our yeomanry cavalry corps—and admirable squadrons many of them could set in the field, in case of invasion. I often read and hear of the great advantage possessed by a native army in the knowledge they have of their own country, and it has been suggested that those advantages would be shared by volunteer riflemen, who could pop away from their pet hedge-rows, if the enemy are blind enough to advance by them, and to let themselves be “potted” at to our perfect satisfaction; but the fact is, that local knowledge is useful only to generals and officers directing operations, and that it is necessarily more limited in extent than at first blush would be taken to be likely. It is evident that only a very small portion of the force engaged in any one place can be familiar with the particular spot in which they are fighting. The man of Kent would know nothing of Dorset, nor would the Ulster man be much at home in Suffolk. In the battle of Inkerman most extraordinary blunders as to the “lie” of the country were made by the Russians issuing from Sebastopol, and many of their battalions were as strange to the Crimea as were the French and English. But to a general commanding trained, obedient, and reliable troops, knowledge of the country is very serviceable, and no doubt want of knowledge of it is very embarrassing to the invading general. Such knowledge as is chiefly required is, however, soon obtained. There is ever ready some needy mortal to give information, and to make money of his countrymen’s lives. There is the diffusion of knowledge which makes good maps of every place cheap and abundant. The position of woods, copses, villages, detached houses—ponds, lakes, streams, bridges—the course and quality of roads, bye-lanes, wooded and open, are soon learned—their fitness for artill-

lery and cavalry speedily tested—and the magnitude of the advantage possessed by the resident defender rapidly vanishes.

But suppose that a general, pressed by a superior force of regulars, finds himself in a close country with which he is thoroughly acquainted, and knows he can avail himself of the services of a steady body of Volunteers, familiar with the use of the rifle and obedient to orders, there can be no doubt that he would avail himself of their services with alacrity and confidence, and that after a few encounters with the enemy the Volunteers, appreciating their own position and uses, would become exceedingly valuable as auxiliaries to the regular troops.

It becomes important to ascertain how much drill is required to render Volunteers efficient in the field, and to enable them to co-operate with a regular force. On this point we have the advice and the words of a master soldier—Sir Charles Napier.

“1. To face right and left by word of command.

“2. To march in line and in column.

“3. To extend and close files as light infantry, with ‘supports.’

“4. To change front in extended and in close order.

“5. To relieve the skirmishers.

“6. To form solid squares and ‘rallying squares.’

“7. To form an advanced guard.

“These seven things are all that you require; do not let any one persuade you to learn more.

“Let the target practice be constant. Also habituate your corps to take long marches of from fifteen to twenty miles, with arms and ammunition on; and also in running, or what is called ‘double quick time.’ These must be arrived at by gradually *increasing from* small distances. No single man,

much less a body of men, can make these exertions without training. Also subscribe for premiums to those who are the best shots. Do not be exclusive in forming your corps; take your gamekeepers as your comrades, and any of your labourers that will enrol themselves. A gentleman will find no braver or better comrades than among his own immediate neighbours and tenants. Should you require to throw up a breastwork, they will be more handy with the spades and pickaxes than yourselves."

Now, perhaps to the civilian it seems an easy thing to learn these seven things, but to do them well demands, at the hands of any body of Volunteers, great diligence, honest appliance, zeal, and self-sacrifice. Any corps which can perform the seven movements thoroughly well, can march twenty miles a-day, if necessary, with arms and ammunition—can manage "the double quick," and possess a good proportion of first-rate shots—need fear very little for themselves in any encounter with an enemy, provided they are well placed, well handled, and well supported.

It must not be supposed for a moment that riflemen, however excellent as marksmen, steady in drill, and perfect in discipline, could hold possession of ordinary country unaided by regular troops, and other branches of the usual military organization. I have seen the best and steadiest riflemen pounded out of a trench by a few well-directed shrapnel and shell from a howitzer enfilading them a little by its fire; and in open country, without cover, riflemen would have very hard times of it, with vigorous, well-led, and experienced cavalry. If a regular army, provided fully with all branches of its equipments, were to find itself in a close country, cut up by hedgerows, studded with covers, and intersected

by narrow paths, its commander would, under any circumstances, feel himself constrained to act with the utmost caution; if he were informed that masses of the enemy's riflemen were in his front, he would probably cast about to see if, by some flank movement, he could not get round the dangerous district, and resume his direct march under more favourable circumstances. But should he come to the conclusion that for any strategical reason it was necessary to clear the ground right in front, he would not for a moment hesitate in his plan of attack. The very hedges, and covers, and paths which give confidence to his enemy would not be without advantage to him. His disciplined and experienced riflemen, handled by skilful officers, would search their way carefully from bush to bush. Should there be a check, up come the field-guns, which in a country of the kind I am alluding to possess an advantage which is not at first sight very obvious. It is simply this, that they can be worked in positions well-sheltered from the fire of the opposing riflemen, so that the artillerymen cannot be seen. But "they cannot see either," it will be said. True; neither is it necessary they should, provided they know the general direction of their enemy. Along the hedgerows, through the copses, into the thick, long grass, fly flights of deadly grape, shrapnels burst and hurl their iron showers in fast extending columns, shells burst above, below, and all around the isolated riflemen, and the round shot roar through the trees, and shiver their trunks, or bring down the forest tops on the men beneath. Now, I think officers of experience will corroborate me in stating that under such circumstances riflemen attacked by men of their own arm and a powerful *artillery must rapidly give way, and can only be*

saved from destruction by great steadiness, by eventual support, and by their capacity to act in all respects like regular infantry.

Against any number of cavalry, and against a strong artillery, a close country might be held by a very inferior force of skilful and audacious riflemen—the essence of such a corps is well expressed in the motto of the 60th, “*Celer et audax.*”

But the conditions of success are well determined, and I have but limited confidence in the efforts of irregular rifle corps directed to stop the march of a regular army. Their peculiar uses are of immense advantage, and their impeding power, if properly directed, is enormous. Very recently I saw on the banks of the Raptée, or close to them, an advance of our cavalry and artillery checked by some Sepoys, who threw themselves into a jungle in our front with two nine pounders, and opened a fire which obliged a splendid regiment of British cavalry and a troop of our artillery to retire, principally on account of the musketry. A few companies of the Rifle Brigade cleared them out quick march, and forced them to leave their guns. Should it happen by any unfortunate complication that an enemy ever lands on our shores, I trust we may never permit our Rifle Volunteers to engage them till they are properly supported by artillery, horse, and regulars; for I know that the consequence of a severe punishment inflicted upon one of those admirable gentlemen guerilla bands would be the loss of that prestige which is worth thousands of bayonets in a newly organized force.

It is on the open coast lines that corps of riflemen would be of most use in resisting predatory attack, and, under favourable circumstances, in frustrating attempts to land troops. On many portions of our coast the depth of water will prevent men-of-war or

transports anchoring within moderate gunshot of the shore, and the invading force will have to come off in boats, which, however, will probably be to some extent covered by the fire of gunboats and vessels of light draught, and will certainly use their own guns. But the coasts of this description generally afford good cover for riflemen, and their fire ought to tell with great effect on troops crowded helplessly in boats, which offer fair targets to good marksmen at six hundred and seven hundred yards, whilst round shot, and shell from the boats, fly rather wildly, and cannot do much damage against judiciously posted riflemen. Our descent on the Crimea was unopposed, but every one who was there knows how seriously the whole movement would have been impeded had there been even a show of resistance by two or three thousand riflemen, who could have got off with little loss after inflicting serious injury on the Allies, and causing great delay to the operation. The same was the case at Kinburn, but I remember well that a strong naval force in reconnaissance up the Boug, under the orders of Sir Houston Stewart, was obliged to return, after an ineffectual attempt to silence some small field guns defended by infantry posted on one of the banks of the river.

It is on the coast—along the whole of our seaboard—that rifle companies would be most useful, and are most needed. I have every confidence in the power of our navy: with the care now extended towards our sailors by the Admiralty, with the energy displayed in all departments of our naval administration, and with the vast resources we possess in our enormous mercantile marine, we ought to be able to maintain our wonted supremacy even against any possible combination of maritime powers; but it *must* be recollected, that in the coalition and con-

flict which we may not unreasonably dread, there is a new element of mischief which did not exist in former times. The whole of the coast-lines of England, dotted by wealthy ports, luxurious bathing-places, and pleasant towns, lie open to sudden raids ; such as a fast-steaming frigate or gunboat could execute. When the blockade of Sebastopol was at its strictest, and when Odessa was watched by the allied steamers, a Russian steam-sloop managed to make a predatory cruise in the Black Sea, slipped through our fingers, and got safely into Odessa, after she had plundered and taken Turkish vessels off the very mouth of the Bosphorus. Light, well-manned sloops and gunboats could run into a roadstead ere the troops for its defence could march to the spot ; could land a small force under cover of their guns, and embark with such valuable property as they might find in every comfortable watering-place. But if there were local rifle companies, it might be true that their resistance would expose the threatened town to a long-range fire of heavy guns from the enemy, but it would assuredly prevent the desecration of our soil, and baulk his hopes of plunder. Nor would it encourage the enemy if, in his marine razzias, one or two of his cruisers grounded in the neighbourhood of a band of skilled riflemen. The result must be the capture of the vessel and of its crew. The *Tiger* was helpless at Odessa, and her enormous armament was unable to reply to some light field-pieces and musketry from the cliff. I remember that at least one of our own gunboats was taken on a shoal in the Sea of Azov by some Russian riflemen and Cossacks ; and if I recollect rightly, another was abandoned under similar circumstances. Now, had there been no troops at hand to open fire immediately, the crews of

those ships could have worked them off, but immediate attack rendered their capture inevitable. The crew of the *Tiger*, under the orders of her gallant and lamented Commander Giffard, were busily engaged in lightening her when the Cossack battery and a few troops hastened from Odessa to the spot where she was lying, and compelled them to surrender. Had the men worked uninterruptedly for two hours more, there was every chance, I am assured, of her being got off. If we had local companies all along our coasts, an enemy's vessel, situated as the *Tiger* or the gunboats to which I have alluded were placed, must become a prize; but if we have to wait for the march of troops, she may in all probability get off. It is on the coast, then, that Rifle Volunteers would be most useful, and I urge upon the leaders in this movement to direct their efforts to the maritime towns and populations in the first instance. As yet, I confess, the progress made in actual enrolment is not so satisfactory as might be desired and expected. Meetings have been held, subscriptions made, speeches delivered, and committees appointed; but as yet I look in vain for any large results, for any great enrolment of men, for any practical commencement with the rifle. Let us urge it on, and, above all, let us press the movement along the coast and in all seaports and maritime towns. It would be great shame and great peril for England if the appeal that has been made to her fails, whether the failure be caused by disbelief in the existence of danger, apathy, reliance on actual means of defence, or in confidence of her ability to put forth adequate means of resistance when the danger does arrive.

Let us, I say again, do all that lies in our power to awaken the seaboard to a sense of a possible

danger—let us girdle the shores with chains of volunteer rifle companies. Right before them is the best practice ground possible for the target—low beaches, strands, and high cliffs; whilst the country behind them is admirably adapted for practice in military movements and drill. When every man who is able to equip himself has laid out his 15*l.* or 20*l.*, and has done so, it will be quite time enough to consider how far the State should move in aid of those who are willing to become volunteer riflemen, but are only partially or not at all able to purchase rifles and uniform. It has been said, but it is scarcely credible, that the ardour of our gentlemen and yeomanry has been cooled by the notification that, if they enrol themselves, they become amenable to military command, discipline, and responsibility, that they must act under martial law, and be subject to restraint on the part of the military authorities. Now, although it would be prudent to relax mere military rules and regulations as far as possible, it is quite evident that the State cannot accept the services of any body of armed men without requiring that these men should obey the authorities she recognises as the sole administrators of her military system. In no State in the world are, or could be, permitted armed bands independent of State control. If Englishmen will refuse to enrol themselves because the State asserts its natural right over them, well and good. Let them practise at their targets—let them form rifle clubs—let them, when the enemy appears, turn out and wage a veritable guerilla against him; but let them recollect that they deprive the State of one-half the confidence she would feel in their support, and themselves of the skill, discipline, and power of combination which would make them all but irre-

sistible. There is no Englishman so proud that he ought to feel humiliated by any conditions imposed upon him by his allegiance to the Queen, or by the military service of his country. There is no Englishman so great that the carrying of arms in the service of his country shall not make him greater. The State, in her necessity, may accept the service of her citizens without condition or compact; but when that necessity comes, her citizens would show but little patriotism or devotion if, as the price of their assistance, they demanded the abrogation of all the laws which good government imposes on military organizations. To those who accept the guidance of those laws, and make compact with the State, she offers advantages of no ordinary kind—the full recognition of their military status, the guardianship of their children and wives in case of death in the field, exemption from more special service. In the moment of supreme peril, all who can bear an arm to kill or wound may no doubt be found ready to die for their country; but that peril might never have come, had the people, by some small abatement of pride, some better appreciation of their duty as citizens, some juster estimate of the soldiers' duties and profession, some small self-sacrifices of time or money, or prejudice, gathered round her in all the dignity of their strength, and offered to the sight of Europe the magnificent aspect of a nation of warriors disciplined as soldiers, and free as those "who fought at great Thermopylæ," divided into well-ordered bands, in sufficient numbers, and each with sufficient individual skill to render their united mass greater in prowess, power, and strength, than the greatest force that despotism ever summoned to trample out the light of liberty.

The great Council of the nation is on the eve of

assembling, and it is to be hoped that the Ministers will come forward with some plain practical proposition with respect to these Volunteer Corps which are in course of formation, and for the encouragement of those who are willing to create or join them. It would be perhaps advisable to stimulate the zeal of poor districts by the usual bounty, and by concessions as to arms and uniform. But it is to be trusted that there are hundreds of thousands of young men in England who need no such incitements or assistance ; and it would be unwise, perhaps, to insist on any further military subordination than the general submission of the Volunteers, when enrolled, to martial law in time of war, and their general supervision by the military authorities in time of peace. It should be distinctly understood that a military officer, *quoad* officer, should have no power over any volunteer, unless specially appointed to command or engaged in action. Whatever we do—let me say it again and again—let us begin ON THE COAST.

CHAPTER II.

ORGANIZATION—REASONS FOR PREFERRING RIFLE COMPANIES AND CORPS TO CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS.

THERE is already some difference of opinion respecting the mode in which the Volunteer Corps are to be provided with arms. Some are of opinion that as the volunteers find themselves (the men), the country should find the arms; others maintain that the volunteers should purchase their own arms and equipments, and that eligible men who may not be in a position to do so should be furnished with the means by subscriptions either of a local or general character made for that purpose.

To be really useful and national, all exclusiveness and dilettanteism should be banished from the Volunteer Corps. The country should accept the services of every man who is able and willing to join in her defence; and if he be a man of good character, strong and active, but too poor to buy uniform and arms, it seems bad policy to lose his services for the want of a few pounds. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that there would be more spirit and *fiercé* about a corps which consisted of men who owned all they had about them, and who had presented themselves to the country without cost to her, and with some material guarantees given on their side that their patriotism could stand the test of loss of money and loss of time. Each man would take

greater care of his arms if they were his own, and would feel more at home in his clothes and more of the spirit of a volunteer.

It seems desirable, then, that all who can purchase arms and uniform should do so at once; and if their numbers do not come up to the strength which the Government would like to see incorporated, it would be time to consider the propriety of encouraging subscriptions for armament and clothing, or of granting arms and uniform from the national treasury. We must remember that there is a militia to which the poorer classes of our gallant countrymen should be encouraged to go as much as possible, and that the line depends very greatly on the militia for its supply of men. If a man joins a volunteer corps he is exempt from militia service, and this point requires to be attentively considered, though its full effect cannot be determined till we see something more of the present movement. When Parliament meets we shall know more of the sense of the country on these questions, and by that sense the mode of formation of Volunteer Corps must be settled and decided. One thing, however, can at once be pronounced.* The structure, the control, and the spirit of these corps must be military, and they must be under the ordinary military authorities of the country. They must be well officered by men of experience appointed by the Lord-Lieutenant, as the representative of the Queen, but recommended or elected by the whole body of the Company of Volunteers. The Company appears to be the best unit of formation, and there are few parishes in England where one hundred men cannot be found eager to carry arms, to practise their use, to condemn them-

* * These lines were written ere the Circular from Government was issued, and before the meeting of the new Parliament.

selves to some little privations in order to get arms and equipments and time for drill. There are many hundreds of half-pays available to officer those companies, and hundreds more of stout squires who "sold out" on coming into their estates, on marriage, or on quarrelling with the major, who will now no doubt be proud to head a company of their own tenants and neighbours, and to prepare them diligently for the evil day of that great Armageddon when we shall be called upon to fight *pro aris et focis*. The old pensioner in the village, the retired sergeant at the lodge-gate, the gardener who got that wound at Inkerman, all would aid in teaching our Volunteers their duty, and "show how fields are won." If we are earnest in this matter, there can be in two months 500,000 volunteers enrolled; but it will be some time more ere we can hope to see each man armed and clad properly, even if Government gives all the aid in its power. If we are lukewarm, the movement will become a national disgrace, and its failure will be the strongest inducement to our enemy, whoever he may be, to attack us.

In forming each local company, never to exceed one hundred strong, let us not be too proud to take the usual *vaurienage* of the village. Who knows but the pride of carrying arms will make that permanent prop of the alehouse wall a mobile valiant citizen, quicken his self-respect, and teach him to work and labour? The gamekeeper knows well that Master Bede there is a bit of a poacher; but he can tell, too, that Master Bede can knock off the head of a rabbit as clean as a whistle with a dose of No. 7, and that he can run a mile, hide, dodge, and double in cover fast as a hare, and is the makings of a thorough rifleman. Let the squire take Master Bede, then, in spite of the gamekeeper, and let him work the

same way all through the village, and only avoid flat-footed, lark-heeled, knock-kneed men, or such as are "too fat and scant o' breath," for he must remember that he is not picking out a model congregation, but is preparing a company of soldiers. To each company there should be at least three officers, a captain and two subalterns (I would prefer four), and it would be most desirable to secure the services of some old steady soldiers as sergeants and drillers. Ten such companies might form a battalion, to be divided into two wings of five companies each, to be under a commandant or major; but there would be no necessity for calling them to act together till the companies had been tolerably well drilled, and, above all, had learned target practice well. When called together, there might be a general competition at the target, which would create immense emulation among the different companies. Wherever it was practicable the Volunteers should be trained in the field to act at reviews and field days with regular troops or militia.

As far as one can judge of the present movement, there is as yet a decided tendency to favour "Clubs" or "Associations," instead of "Corps" or "Companies." This tendency is unfavourable to real efficiency, and to utility in case of need. I say it without offence, but in all truthfulness, that I would not place much reliance on Rifle "Clubs," in event of an invasion, and that I fear they would be nearly useless for military purposes. Why should not earnest, straightforward men, who really mean to fight for their country, if there be occasion, try to attain the greatest efficiency in the art of fighting? Why should they fear any approach to the discipline and subordination of military bodies? Why should they suspect Government of any designs upon them? If

men join rifle-clubs as they join cricket-clubs, or boat-clubs, merely to indulge in a favourite amusement in pleasant company, I do not anticipate much good from the movement, although it is far more needful and desirable for our young men to know the use of the rifle than the use of the bat or of the oar. I fear that rifle-clubs will become merely the resort, for a few hours in the week, of some members who like rifle-shooting, "a cigar, and a glass of brandy-and-water, a little friendly gossip, perhaps a rubber, and so to bed." Such men, so constituted, would in the field be the very cheap, but the very inefficient defence of England. What I contend for is the "Rifle Company" regularly officered and regularly drilled, and well practised, which in time can act in concert with its fellows in a battle, and which may be regarded as a military body. The other day I saw a young gentleman walking down Oxford-street in a fine new uniform. He had a shiny black leather shako on his head with a long waving plume, and worsted cap-lines. His slender body was squeezed into a much-braided dark cloth tunic, with thick silk cord on neck, breast, and cuffs. Belt with whistle and calls suspended his useless pouch under one shoulder, his waist was squeezed by another belt to the "nth;" in his hand he bore a ponderous sabre with a heavy polished steel scabbard (such as our regular rifle officers very absurdly wear at present), with the usual slings and fittings; and his trousers were strapped so tightly, he could scarcely put his feet to the ground: a more absurd, ridiculous little object of a military nature I had never seen before, and so I was tempted to find out of what manner it was, and found that it was an officer of a newly established "Rifle Club." Now, a more helpless creature than he would be, if turned out of his rifle-club one fine

morning, and told to post his club to protect a position, or take up ground on a common, cannot well be imagined. There is no element of military life in a club. The genius of a club is equality among its members. The genius of a military body is subordination, which is the opposite of equality in the sense in which I am speaking. Sooner than have no movement at all, let us take clubs as the *foyers*, where our ardour in learning the use of arms is to glow freely and fervidly; but if we would secure great, permanent, indubitable results, let us have companies, battalions, corps of a military character. It would be tedious to refer to the details of the various meetings which have taken place in reference to the formation of Volunteer Corps; but I may observe that Scotland appears to be relying on Leith Firth for the safety of Edinburgh, and on Dumbarton Castle for the security of Glasgow. The Highlands may take care of themselves, and Aberdeen has its granite quarries for protection. As to Ireland, we forget all about Hoche and Humbert, the landing at Killala, the action of Castlebar, and the march of a handful of French Republicans into the very centre of the isle onwards without impediment. The most devoted United Irishman who possesses a decent house, a pony, or even a pig, may rest assured that at the hands of the fraternizing Zouave, or of the gay Chasseur d'Afrique, he would receive but little consideration. The conduct of his friends when they landed before the '98 might assure him on that point. Where is Trinity College, with its many hundreds of undergraduates and young graduates, *apti ad arma portandi*? Where are the sons of the old Volunteers? Are they waiting till they hear of a hostile fleet off Kingstown or Belfast? In England and Wales the results of the meetings are as yet

somewhat disappointing, and there is evinced a greater spirit of dependence on Government, and of want of dependence on themselves, than is usual with the people of Great Britain. Look at the proceedings reported on the day I write. At Cardiff, the Committee agree that "the Secretary should solicit the Lord-Lieutenant to urge on the Government the necessity of providing arms and drill, otherwise the *few members* already enrolled would form themselves into a Rifle Club."

At Great Yarmouth it was resolved that a Volunteer Rifle Corps should be established, and a number present enrolled their names, and others, who could not conveniently bear arms, offered their subscriptions. At Kensington, a practical meeting adopted Mr. Wright's very sensible proposition, of enrolling members of the "Rifle Association," under three heads—No. 1. Practising members paying for their own rifles and uniforms, and a subscription of 1*l.* 1*s.* in advance. No. 2. Effectives, paying in whole or part for rifles and uniforms, who would enrol themselves as willing to serve in case of invasion. No. 3. Non-effectives, who would subscribe 2*l.* 2*s.* to the general fund, but were unable to practise or act. But why did they not call themselves a Corps instead of an Association, and divide themselves into as many companies of 100 each, as the 1st and 2nd classes constitute, and the 3rd class would pay for? At Manchester, so far as I can understand, nothing was done, except to send Mr. Chadwick to London to ask the Government to give greater aid to Manchester than Manchester would give to herself.

At Langton there was another practical meeting, which resolved "that, in case Government do not give rifles, steps be taken to provide them for those working men who may be willing to join, but are *unable to purchase for themselves.*"

The men of Messrs. Silver's large factory at North Woolwich, have resolved to form a corps—I hope in two companies—of 200 strong; and the gentlemen connected with the railways terminating in London, have formed a railway corps “above 100 strong.”

At Reading, the meeting forwarded proposals to the Lord-Lieutenant, which, judging from his reply, were not adopted by him, because they were not based on the War Office regulations.

In Shrewsbury, the lieutenancy of Shropshire concur with the Lord-Lieutenant in his desire to afford every facility for the organization of Rifle Corps—and pass resolutions to promote the object.

At Sheffield, a numerous meeting, “enthusiastically in favour of a Rifle Corps,” objected to the Government propositions, and thought the Government ought “at least to find the rifles.”

At Windsor, an exclusive corps is to be formed of the keepers and employés of the Royal parks and farms, mustering 150 men. It ought to be first-rate, but two rounds of grape *might* destroy it.

From this *resumé* it will be seen that there is a great want of uniformity in the designs and actions of the people in respect to the organization of Rifle Corps.

The people require to be aroused and instructed. As yet the movement has not produced its expected results; but we must not be altogether disheartened. If the Government gives the word, and a liberal encouragement is given to the inhabitants of these Isles, they will come forward when there is an occasion for action. Let us try to induce them to come forward ere the occasion arises.

In 1777, after the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga, a considerable agitation sprung up to aid the Crown with troops. Manchester and Liverpool raised each a regiment 1000 strong. In other places

public meetings of towns, counties, and great corporate bodies were encouraged, at which resolutions were proposed for the general levying of men for the service. But London hung back; and as the corporation rejected motions for men or money, private subscriptions were opened to raise men for the public service. An attempt to induce the Corporation of Bristol to raise men met with a similar fate; and the intended measure failed in the counties. But in the face of an actual war with France the spirit of the nation was roused, and volunteers flocked in abundance at the cry of danger. Whether they would have been very efficient in resisting invasion we were happily spared any occasion of determining; but neither Sir John Moore nor Sir Ralph Abercrombie had any very high opinion of the military merits of those irregulars; and admitting that their opinion was biased to a certain extent by the professional contempt which a soldier feels for undrilled combatants, it cannot be doubted that to the regular troops of Bonaparte such a force could have offered little resistance, although they might inflict severe chastisement on them in retreat.

There are (according to McCulloch) about 14,000 parishes in England and Wales, some of which extend into two counties, or pass beyond the limits of one "hundred." In many cases the parish would afford materials for more than one company, in others it would be inconvenient to adopt the parish as the basis of a corps of riflemen; but in all it would, I trust, be easy to get men ready to serve in case of need, and whether the denomination of the corps be that of a parish or not, matters little if we have the men. In the old days, when *England* was divided into knights' fees, there were

always 60,000 men ready for forty days' service when the Crown called on its tenants *in capite* and holders of fees to come to the aid of the Sovereign. We had then no colonies to defend, and the proportion of this force to that which we now maintain is very great, considering the vast changes which have taken place in our position as a great power, and in our relations with the rest of the world. In 1808 our force, including Volunteer Corps, yeomanry, and militia, amounted to 450,000 men who were actually embodied, and in 1815 we had 138,000 infantry of the line. Our present establishment consists of an equal number, of whom more than 70,000 are in India, and our total force of all kinds, including colonial localized corps, consists of about 230,000 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men.

In Lieutenant Busk's book it is proposed to divide England into 400 districts, and to raise one regiment from each district, varying from 400 to 1000 strong. Now, for my own part, I much prefer the actual divisions of parishes as the basis of the formation, each parish furnishing the materials of its own company. Hundreds, or rating-districts for poor-law purposes, would do equally well; but a known and existent division would be the most effective.

In some quarters, and in some parts of England, there is a disposition to favour the formation of corps of Mounted Rifles. By all means encourage it along the sea-coast, and in open countries, but do not let the movement interfere with the creation of infantry corps. It need not be observed that, for the cost of one cavalry rifleman, three foot-men could be maintained; but, on the other hand, those who are willing to join such corps must be men to whom time and money are no objects, or, at least, to whom

they belong in tolerable quantity. The only advantage possessed by such bodies would be the power of moving rapidly from place to place in open ground; but in thick, copse-covered, water-cut lands they would not be as useful as their infantry comrades. For vidette duties they would scarcely be fit till after long practice; for it is not presumptuous in me to express an opinion that the safety of an army ought to be confided only to its best and most skilful soldiers; that the safety of an army depends almost as much on due notice being given of an opportunity to prepare for fighting as on fighting itself; that surprise is often disastrous, and always bloody in its results; and that no duty is badly performed—so I have heard over and over again—by our countrymen except one—but that one is outpost duty. In the Cape Mounted Rifles we have an excellent example of such corps; but it is very large, consists of ten troops, nearly one hundred strong each, is used in the open country, and is exposed to this strong disqualification, in common with all such corps, that in action one-third of the corps must be non-effective, inasmuch as one man is obliged to hold three horses, his own and those of two dismounted comrades; that the horses held in groups of three are fair marks for fire, and are likely to be killed or maimed, thus depriving men of the means of retreat, if necessary, and leaving them at the mercy of a charge of cavalry. Along our coast, however, if gentlemen and young squires like to form troops of Mounted Rifles (to be armed with a double-barrelled, short Enfield carried in a bucket, with rifle-sword and revolver), let them do so by all means, for they would be useful in collecting rapidly to resist a small descent from a sloop or frigate: their horses could be secured well out of sight; they

could retreat rapidly, and warn friends and forces of the descent, if it were in force, and could (always supposing them to act in open country) do good service in acting with light troops. However, it is easily conceivable that the most perfect discipline is required to make such corps really effective, and that, without discipline, they are but spoiled cavalry and worthless riflemen. Nothing can be more miserably non-effective than the fire of mounted men. They may hit each other with a pistol in a *mêlée*, but the best cavalry officers I have conversed with have always said they would give their horsemen only a good sword if they had their will, except when acting as videttes. The man is tempted to use a carbine if he has it, and does not rely sufficiently on his proper arm, which is the sword. In the skirmish which took place between our cavalry and the horse of the Russian reconnoissance, on the day before the Alma, our men, in beautiful line of skirmishers, were drawn out before the regular Cossacks and light horse of the enemy, who sent out man to man, and at the distance of two hundred yards or so the two lines commenced blazing away at each other with their carbines, and fired round after round for many minutes. Not one of our men or horses was touched; and I only saw — and I think I saw all there was to see — one Cossack dismounted, his horse being hit or lamed. The Yeomanry corps are likely to do all that is required as Volunteer Cavalry; but if the young squires like to aid them instead of trudging along with their labourers on foot, let them do so, sooner than do nothing.

With regard to Volunteer Artillery, I respectfully and briefly say, let us have none of it, nor trouble our heads about it. The expense would be very great, the time and trouble of disciplining

enormous. Artillery is not an arm to be played with by ignorant people. It is a highly exigent arm ; it demands assiduous attention ; those who work it are rightly considered a scientific branch of the service ; and it would be necessary to drill Volunteers incessantly for many months ere they could be trusted with field-guns in actual service. The Militia artillery regiments should do all that is required as supplements to the regular horse and field-batteries. For siege guns, however, there would be no harm in letting those who like it learn a little of that arduous and difficult work—handling and knocking about long thirty-twos or sixty-eights. It would, indeed, be very useful if we had, at all fortified places, or wherever there were heavy guns mounted seawards, men who could come forward when our artillery were pressed, or short in number ; but beyond such amateur help as could be rendered in that way, I don't think we can expect anything from Volunteer artillerymen, and that it would be a waste of time, enormous expense, and bad policy to encourage the formation of Volunteer horse or field-batteries. It is possible that these views are erroneous ; but I know that when the Russian Government were encouraging Volunteers in all directions, during the Crimean war, they said, " No artillery volunteers—no guns required."

It is wise for the State to ascertain how far the martial spirit of the people will induce them to come forward as volunteers without any aid or assistance from the public purse ; but if it should become desirable to place under arms larger bodies of men than those who thus present themselves, it will be the duty of Government to consider how that object may be best effected, and how far the State shall assist in its development. All who aspire to the rank

of officers should provide their own accoutrements. Lists should be prepared, whenever there is any volunteering spirit, of all the males able to bear arms, and give their time up for short drills and exercise, and these lists should be divided into classified tables of those who could purchase arms and uniform, &c., of those who could only buy their own uniform or arms, and of those who could not provide anything but a stout body and a willing heart. On these tables being sent through the Lord-Lieutenant of the county to the Government, the War Department might proceed to send down drill sergeants and to appoint the superior officers for the organization of the companies for their drill and for their formation into battalions. The local authorities should be instructed to give every facility in affording men the means of practising, and those who could not furnish themselves with arms, either partially or wholly, could be retained on a sort of reserved list to be rendered effective by Government grants of rifles, &c., whenever it seemed desirable to call them out. The expediency of giving bounty must be determined by circumstances; the gift would unquestionably augment the list of volunteers very much; but the whole of the acts under which volunteer corps are legitimized and regulated, require revision and adaptation to present circumstances. If this movement becomes general, it is to be apprehended that the old inconveniences which were experienced in 1804 will happen again, and that serious disputes will take place between the officers of the corps and those appointed by Government to inspect them. The Government cannot permit such a body as existed at that time to rise up again uncontrolled and with arms in their hands, and the necessity of looking after 600,000 men in 1804-5 was found very heavy,

so that the Ministry appointed Inspecting Brigadier-Generals, who immediately came to loggerheads with the old field officers appointed to superintend the volunteer corps. It must be remembered at the time in question our position was such that Mr. Secretary Yorke declared it was a question whether the Government would not be forced to use compulsory measures to fit men for the defence of the State. Yet we had then 120,000 sailors in our navy, including 30,000 marines, and our volunteers numbered 325,000 effective men. The volunteer officers were then required to attend on the magistrates, who, in accordance with "Regulations for the preservation of good order, to be adopted in case of actual invasion in each county in Great Britain" (dated August 12, 1804), were to take charge of the defences to a certain extent, and to order the volunteers and special constables on duty connected with the suppression of disturbances, in prison guards, and in escorts for military purposes. Such and more onerous duties would probably be required from them in case of war, though some of our own population are to be dreaded as they were in 1804. The privileges granted by the 44 Geo. III., cap. 54, are very small in character and insignificant in value. If the volunteers had larger exemptions and more liberal treatment there would be more anxiety to enrol. They have, however, some which are of real utility. They are entitled to pay in case of invasion, and their families are placed in the same position as those of militiamen. Although the Queen may place whatever general she pleases in command, the various corps are led by their own officers and are not to be moved to any other body, and their officers rank as the youngest of their respective ranks with those of the line and of the militia. From all those provisions inde-

pendent troops cannot be considered as exempt, but Rifle Clubs can scarcely participate in any. There is one objection to pay beyond the mere expense—that it destroys the voluntary character of the force as a spontaneous soldiery, and reduces it to that of a mercenary militia. But it is better to take anything we can get than to have *nothing* at all. All bodies of men in arms, when assembled with the concurrence of the authorities, are liable to the operations of the Articles of War.

CHAPTER III.

THE DRILL AND DRESS, ETC.

LET us suppose the company is now formed, or that a club has been got up in some place where there is a sufficient space available for practice, and let us see what steps should be taken to make them of use in the field. In the first place, we have to meet this serious objection, that arms must be placed in the hands of those who have not been trained to use them. All the preliminary drill, which is so necessary and useful in the regular regiments, can scarcely be learned by corps, and I fear will not be learned at all by clubs. The rifle is purchased, and each man is yearning to use it, but before a wise man puts down a ball-cartridge or pulls a trigger, he will, at all events, learn of what the weapon consists, how it can be taken to pieces and put together again, and make himself acquainted with the adhesions and uses of stock, barrel, sights, lock, ramrod, bayonet, and trigger. Let him keep the mechanism of the lock for investigation to some period of fuller knowledge. If there is no armourer handy, or the sergeant is not arrived, the volunteer cannot do better than purchase Busk's "*Rifle and how to Use It*," which gives the fullest information on all points, elucidated by very clear plates or diagrams. Having got so far, it depends on the nature of the body to which he belongs to decide what the next step should be; but in my judgment he certainly ought to learn so much of

the manual and platoon exercise as shall enable him to act in concert with his fellows, to handle his rifle without danger to them or to himself, to load and fire it properly. After which, let him begin sedulously to practise at the target. Most probably he will begin at the target first. Drill to an adult is exceedingly distressing ; the dreadful rigidity of the sergeant, the monotonous, loud, croaking, never-ending orders, the exacting nature of the man who gives them, his aggravating English. "At the words Fix-x-x (a pause and a rush at) swooo-erds, place the rifle with the right hand smartly between the knees, guard to the front." "Your right hand's all wrong ! As you were ! Begin again !" prove beyond endurance, to lazy men or nervous people ; but, whatever the result, I would recommend that no man, under any pretence, should be permitted to use a single round of ball-cartridge till he had learned to load in the proper manner, and to go through the "ready," "present," and "fire," and knew how to take aim in the way soldiers are taught to do. If the volunteers really intend to fight, if it is not merely playing at soldiers they are engaged in, they will learn all this and more ; and they will acquire a knowledge not only of the rifle, but of the rifle with the sword bayonet attached to it. Isolated footmen can make themselves very troublesome to deal with if they understand the bayonet exercise thoroughly, and there are very few horsemen, whether hussars, lancers, or dragoons, who would willingly attack a foot-soldier standing at bay and well placed to defend himself. Even in the open a foot-soldier need fear very little from a horseman who is armed only with a sabre or lance, provided the former is skilled in the use of his weapon. In the late Indian campaign the enemy invariably broke before our

infantry ; but when they were attacked in their flight by our horse, they invariably resisted, and cost us the lives of most valuable officers and men. I have seen many instances of desperation on the part of Sepoys who defended themselves with firelock and bayonet or sword with such success, that it required the efforts of three or four troopers to dispose of them. There is a disposition at present to reject the sword or bayonet because it is cumbersome, but I would strongly recommend all our volunteers to teach themselves its use, and to study the exercise conjointly with the practice of the shooting-ground. Sir Charles Napier has told them how far they may safely go in their drill, but he has not restricted volunteers to any limit of excellence in their sharp-shooting, and they cannot go too far in their exertions in that part of their business. As to the excellence which may be attained by a firm hand and a cool eye, there is no bounds, except such as nature puts, and which art cannot overcome, in the flight of projectiles. Mr. Whitworth's experiments show how certain a man in possession of these attributes should be of killing another at the distance of three-quarters of a mile, provided there is no great amount of wind at the time to divert the course of the bullet.

There is no reason indeed (except the natural results of human nervousness on the part of a man when shot at) to prevent a battalion, with a front of 400 rank and file, killing every one of an opposing body of the same strength at 500 yards' distance by one discharge ; but that is a degree of perfection which is not likely to be speedily attained in legitimate homicide. If a man standing 22 inches broad and 5 feet 8 inches high, were to place himself at 200 yards from a fair rifle-shot, he ought to receive bullet after bullet from the latter between

his head and his hips, for the latter ought certainly not to miss him once in a dozen shots. The effect of return fire depends on one's constitution—on the best and coolest hand it has some influence. There are few who visited the aqueduct across the Inkerman Quarries ravine who do not remember "Rouge-Bonnet," the Russian rifleman, who was wont to keep such a sharp look-out on all visitors. Our friend wore a red cap, which rendered him very conspicuous, and gained him the name from the French soldiers who held the ravine. He lived among some old ruins about 700 yards distant, and as soon as morning broke he announced his presence by some well-directed shot at any object which was visible above the wall of the aqueduct. Now I will tell you what I have seen this man do. A part of the sights of the Quarries ravine was to get Rouge-Bonnet to show himself, which was generally managed by putting up a kepi on the end of a bayonet and moving it along just above the top of the wall, or by a young Zouave standing for a moment on the wall itself. "Ping" came the bullet, and flattened itself with a fizz against the rock close by the side of the mark aimed at, which must have seemed but a speck at the place where the keen-eyed Muscovite was stationed. After firing, he always *came out* from his corner, and proceeded coolly to load his rifle whilst the French riflemen were potting at him from every direction; but *the moment he wished to deliver a shot in return, he went behind his stone breastwork*, and the near escapes of those at whom he aimed proved what marvellous shooting he made. Indeed, the French could not be induced to believe it was the same man, and insisted that it was a *ruse* of the enemy to put a red cap on their best shots one after another, and send them in till they were

killed or wounded ; but I believe that they were wrong, and that this one man cost them the loss of several officers, and of at least five-and-twenty men.

Unless a rifleman is a good judge of distances, his good shooting is of very little service, and gallery practice, where the distances are marked off, may prove very fallacious in the field or open country, where the man has to judge whether he whom he desires to hit is at 500 or at 550 yards. Often and often have I seen a foot-soldier running from a disabled rifle-pit escape through the shots of 50 or 60 men. The difficulty is increased in the case of a horseman crossing the line of fire, who has a probability of escape from all but a chance shot at 400 yards. On the Raptee, the other day, the enemy's sowars were bahadooring about in face of our men as they emerged from the wood, and escaped uninjured, though the rifles opened a very sharp fire upon them, which drove them out of range. We must not exaggerate the merits of the rifle, great as they are, and vast as are their influences ; nor should we form erroneous impressions respecting the value of light troops.

It seems determined by the result of the present war that battles shall continue to be won as of yore, notwithstanding the improvements in long-range arms. What I have seen of warfare all along has confirmed the impression that no extent of range will ever materially affect great principles of military science, or diminish the advantages of discipline. At Alma, though Admiral Menschikoff found it convenient to imagine that the Light Division was a dense cloud of skirmishers, who inflicted great losses on him by their rifles, it was the close work and the tremendous fire, delivered at a hundred yards, which enabled us to take our portion of the position ; and so

the same remark is true of the French attack. We now see Austrians and French at the same close work, charging guns, taking batteries, bayonetting and close firing, the sharpshooters being driven in by the advance of the troops in column, or cleared off like flies with a whisk by artillery.

Baron Jomini considered that the proportion between regular infantry of the line and light troops should be as three to one; and he laid it down as an axiom that the occasions of war required two kinds of infantry—one to support the shock of an enemy by its union, and repel his efforts, the other to reconnoitre and harass him in skirmishing, and pursue him in a close country. But Napoleon maintained that there never could be more than one kind of infantry, because, said he, the firelock is the best weapon for war ever invented.

Since his time we have “changed all that,” so far as the weapon goes, but the principles of military science are immutable. The only alteration we can effect is the general application of these principles.

In the most recent exposition of war we see that, however the slaughter may be increased by the use of arms of precision, the fate of the day is still determined by the fire of artillery, and by fighting at close quarters. There is a delusion, against which I shall never cease to contend, because I believe it to be a delusion—it is the belief that long-range fighting can affect the actual results of a campaign, or can alter the characteristics of troops so as to give undisciplined bodies of marksmen advantages over regular troops in the field. Every one has heard of the old joke of Curran, or some one of the patriarchs of facetiæ, respecting the dead-shot who could snuff out a candle and yet missed his man in a duel; for,

as he said, he could hit the candle because he knew it could not fire at him.

The importance of rapidity of movement, always great, is now enhanced very much by the length of range and precision of fire. The longer men are in a position of which the range is ascertained, the greater is their loss. Imagine how disheartening and destructive it would be to have a race with a party of the enemy's infantry for the possession of a copse or hedgerow and to find yourselves beaten, and not only beaten in the race, but obliged to lose heavily from the fire of the enemy in ambush.

But rapidity is of but little avail if there is neither knowledge nor order, nor concert in the movement. It is in the possession of these things that discipline is invaluable. One man advances when ordered to take a battery because he knows his right and left-hand comrades, and his rear-rank man will advance also. The bravest would refuse to go alone. Discipline gives steadiness, which is the child of confidence and the mother of victories. But steadiness is by no means incompatible with rapidity of movement, and even with rapidity of firing, when the latter is desirable. The moment a man becomes quite certain that he can kill whatever object of his own size may be within 500 yards of him if he chooses to pull the trigger of his rifle, he has acquired a stock of self-knowledge, which, in a military sense, multiplies his value very many times over.

I have already expressed my opinion, *quantum valet*, in respect to the great advantage of companies and corps over clubs or associations; but I would not by any means desire to have it understood that I thought Rifle Clubs quite useless. They are better than nothing, and I believe in time they will form companies, or the nuclei of local corps. I do

not propose to lay down any rules for the formation of clubs, Lieutenant Hans Busk, of the Victoria Rifles, has anticipated all I had to say on that subject in his very useful book on *Rifle Volunteers*; and, besides, the rules will generally depend upon local circumstances so far as the amount of subscription, shooting days, duties of officers, &c., are concerned. Wild shooting should be carefully avoided, for a club may get into sad disrepute by shooting the village bull, or grazing the ribs of an eminent solicitor.

Mr. Busk's hoops, or arches, are very good guides, and the more of them the better for young shots; but they will spoil self-reliance and good shooting at long ranges. Where it would be difficult or expensive to put up heavy mounds of earth, it would not be hard work for our young riflemen to learn to make their own parapet of gabions, well filled with earth, and placed three deep at least, with shoulders curving inwards towards the target. At the seaside or by sandy places sand-bags will form an excellent substitute for the solid mound. The best cover for the marker that I have ever seen is the shield, such as those used on board the French floating batteries at Kinburn (the *Devastation*, *Tonnant*, and *Lave*), which was a sentry-box made of sheet iron in the form of a perpendicular section of a cylinder, about six feet high, and covered at the top. It revolves easily on a pin on the iron plate on which it stands, and the man who is inside sees readily, by means of various minute holes pierced in the iron plate, at the level of the eyes.

Whatever may be the merits of private bodies in matters connected with the manufacture of arms, it is certain that, in drilling, manœuvring, and firing, the best guides are the Government instruc-

tions; and I recommend them to all corps or clubs, whichever they may be, whose members are desirous of attaining efficiency in the field as marksmen or fighters. There cannot be sounder principles than those upon which the General Order of the 10th of March was instituted for the promotion of sharp-shooting in the regular army; and these regulations might be adopted with great advantage in volunteer corps, who could, however, dispense with the money payments, and be content with the badge, &c. These regulations would serve as a basis for the rules of any local battalion, consisting, as I have recommended, of eight or ten local companies. They are as follows:—

“ Horse Guards, March 10, 1858.

“ The General Commanding in Chief, with a view to stimulate individual exertion, and to reward the proficiency of soldiers in the use and management of the rifle musket, has been pleased to institute a system of ‘prizes for good shooting;’ and the accompanying regulations for the award of the same having received the concurrence of the Secretary of State for War, his Royal Highness desires that they may be strictly observed throughout the infantry and embodied militia.

“ By command,

“ G. A. WETHERALL, Adjutant-General.”

“ REGULATIONS TO GOVERN THE ISSUE OF PRIZES FOR
GOOD SHOOTING.

“ 1. The regimental prizes for good shooting will be three—viz.,

“ 1st Prize.—To the best shot of the battalion, a badge of cross-muskets and a crown, worked in

gold, and entitling the wearer to extra pay at the rate of 2*d.* per day.

“2nd Prize.—To the best shot of each company, a badge of cross-muskets, worked in gold, and carrying with it extra pay at the rate of 1*d.* per day.

“3rd Prize.—To certain of the first-class shots, to be styled ‘marksmen,’ and not to exceed 100 per battalion, a badge of cross-muskets, worked in worsted, with 1*d.* per day additional pay to each wearer.

“2. The badges are to be worked on cloth the colour of the facings of the regiment, and to be worn on the left arm, immediately above the slashed flap of the sleeve.

“3. In order to ensure, on the one hand, a high standard of efficiency, and, on the other, to guard against the public being called upon to pay for a lower standard of merit than is necessary, as well as to secure the utmost impartiality in the distribution of the rewards, it is intended that the registers and annual practice returns shall be the data upon which the proficiency of the men shall be estimated.

“4. Accordingly, the best shot of the battalion will be that soldier who, in the practice of the first class, firing between 600 and 900 yards, obtains the greatest number of points over seven.

“5. The best shot of the company will be that soldier who, in the practice of the first class of his company, firing between 600 and 900 yards, obtains the greatest number of points over seven.

“6. To qualify a soldier for the position of a ‘marksman,’ and the rewards attaching thereto, he must, in the yearly course of practice, have obtained at least seven points in the first class, firing between 600 and 900 yards, and possess competent knowledge of the laws affecting the flight of the

bullet, and the rules to be attended to in maintaining the efficiency of the rifle under all circumstances and conditions, and display the requisite skill in judging distances, being at least in the first class at the final classification of the judging-distance practice.

"7. Should it happen that more than 100 men in the battalion (including the best battalion shot and the best shot of a company) come under the conditions specified in the foregoing paragraph, then those men who have obtained the greatest number of points are to be first selected for the reward and distinction. Should two or more men have obtained the same number of points (not less than seven) in the first class, and be otherwise eligible for the reward, reference is to be made to their respective performances in the first and second periods of individual shooting, and those are to be selected who have obtained the greatest number of points therein. Should there still be a tie, reference is then to be made to their respective performances in the judging-distance practice, and the preference given to those who are the best judges of distance.

"8. Should the number of paid 'marksmen' in a battalion be reduced by casualties during the year, the number may be completed from those men eligible for the reward (if there are any), under the conditions prescribed in paragraph 6.

"9. As a further inducement to all ranks to vie with each other in this essential part of the soldier's instruction, and in order that every man may feel that, though he may not himself succeed in obtaining a prize, he can assist in obtaining one for his company, his Royal Highness the General Commanding in Chief has further approved a supplementary prize of cross-muskets and crown, worked

in gold but unaccompanied by any pecuniary allowance, being worn on the right arm by the sergeants of the best shooting company of every battalion.

“10. Should a sergeant of the best shooting company be either the best shot of the battalion, the best shot of his company, or a marksman, he will wear the distinguishing badge of that position in addition to the badge sanctioned in the foregoing paragraph.

“11. With a view to insure strict impartiality, it is essential that the several companies of a battalion should be kept as much intact as possible; they should therefore be equalized before the annual course of drill and practice commences, and no transfers be made, except such as are indispensable, until the period for commencing the practice in the following year.

“12. Although the best shooting company can be established wherever a range of 300 yards can be obtained, and the company badge may be issued accordingly, it is to be clearly understood that no rewards will be granted to battalions unless they have been practised in the three periods of individual firing, as detailed in paragraphs 70, 77, and 85 of the Book of Instruction; that under no circumstances will the limit of one best shot for a battalion, one for each company, and 100 marksmen, including the two former, ever be allowed to be exceeded; that, as an invariable rule, both the badge and its attendant allowance will have to be surrendered by all who cease, in the next annual course, to fulfil the conditions and maintain the superiority by which these rewards were earned; and that, should the shooting of any battalion fall below the average, the prizes will be wholly withdrawn, and issue of the additional pay suspended.

" 13. Should it be ascertained, either through the reports received from the district inspector of musketry, or through any other source, that any undue advantage has been taken by a battalion in the execution of the several exercises in target and judging-distance practices, such, for instance, as counting ricochets; placing marks to aim at, to denote the allowance to be made for wind, &c., whereby the practical skill of the soldier in the use of his rifle would be defeated; firing at distances shorter than those enjoined by the regulations, and at a greater number of targets than are prescribed for the several distances; departing in any way from the rules defined for conducting the different practices, or otherwise deviating from the spirit of the musketry regulations, published to ensure a uniformity of procedure throughout the army, such battalion will not be eligible for the rewards granted by these regulations.

" 14. The best shot of the battalion and the best shot of the company will be allowed, in addition to the reward as such, the extra pay as 'marksmen'; but no soldier will be eligible for a reward for shooting who is not in the first class in the final classification of the judging-distance practice.

" 15. The 100 prize-holding marksmen are to be distributed between service and depôt companies in the following manner—viz.,

" 10 service companies . . .	90	} 100
" 2 depôt companies . . .	10	

" 16. The extra pay is to be drawn, and the distinguishing badges are to be worn for one year, commencing on the first day of the quarter succeeding that in which the annual report of practice is required to be made up, or as soon as the necessary authority is received.

"17. Badges of distinction will be supplied on application in the usual annual requisition for clothing, and are to be retained in the quartermaster's stores for issue under the provisions of these regulations.

"By command of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, General Commanding-in-Chief,

"G. A. WETHERALL, Adjutant-General."

Here we have a plain exposition of the grounds on which competitive firing should be conducted. It will be emulation, after all, which will force our clubs to become corps, and then they will learn drill and take a pride in excelling their neighbours, in distinguishing themselves in the field by their discipline, and at the target-ground by their close shooting; both of which will do them good service, should they ever be actively engaged.

Far less important than organization in drill or arms, or anything which relates to the real efficiency of volunteers, is a matter which, in the minds of some of them, occupies a foremost place—I mean their dress. So long as there is such a uniformity in the appearance of corps of volunteers as will enable one to make out what it is, and will serve to enable comrades to recognise each other and know their officers, it really matters very little what they wear, provided it be not scarlet with white cross-belts and facings, that being a very conspicuous and far-seen uniform, though scarlet without such addition is not so glaring as might be supposed at the distance of half-a-mile or so. It is of much greater consequence that a soldier be well shod, so that he can march without blistering his feet, or knocking up, than that he be well dressed.

But the shako and the tunic are made matters of much more moment with us than the covering of the feet, and yet it is in the feet that much of the real efficiency of a soldier depends. Thanks to standing camps, drills, and field days since the Crimean war, there is little chance of beholding English regiments of the guard crippled by a nine miles' march, or Highland corps *d'élite* hobbling into camp without a leg left, as they did on their march to Aladyn on the same occasion; training and exercise do much, but a bad boot will put the best soldier *hors de combat* in an hour over bad country.

As to uniform, the best I have seen suggested is that which was originally recommended by Lord Elcho; I think, in a letter to the *Times*, in which he proposed that form of nether garment called the knickerbocker for use in Volunteer Corps. That idea was followed up and improved upon by another writer, who suggests "that each man should have a grey round felt hat, which he prices at 3s. 3d.; a grey woollen frock short of the knee, made with strap and buckle for the waist, 13s. 9d.; a pair of grey knickerbockers, 9s.; a pair of coarse worsted stockings, 1s. 8d.; brown leather gaiters, 4s. 6d.; stout lace-up boots, 10s. 6d.; accoutrements of brown leather, consisting of a fifty-round pouch with cap pocket, 6s. 6d.; pouch-belt, 3s.; waist-belt with snake, 2s. 6d.; frog for bayonet-belt, 1s. 5d.; rifle-sling, 1s. 3d.; percussion-pouch on belt, 1s. 3d.; ball-bag with oil-bottle, 2s. 3d.; large waterproof havresack, 4s. 9d.; Enfield rifle, 3l. 3s." The prices appear reasonable, but the Enfield, with bayonet, will cost more, unless Government can and will supply the arm.

I have seen the knickerbocker and its modifications in use, and I think it an admirable, easy, com-

fortable, nether-man cover. If it is thought for any reason un-English, which it may be, though worn almost universally in the Highlands and elsewhere by grouse and deer shooters, let us have boots wide enough at the top to allow of the ends of the trousers being tucked in when the march lies in muddy places, or let us adopt short gaiters, which answer just as well.

The knickerbocker should not be made too baggy or long, because it has a tendency, in such cases, to catch in briers, &c., in thorny brakes and hedgerows, and the wearer would, under those circumstances, soon find himself reduced to a sort of impromptu kilt. I prefer a russet brown, or grey, for the colour of all the dress—gaiters, cap, tunic, and trousers—as it is certainly the least visible under most circumstances, and is therefore the best for riflemen; and next to that is Russian grey, or that drab-grey colour which the Russians adopt for their universal outside coat. The other accoutrements seem reasonable and serviceable. Our rifle-green black is certainly a bad colour, as any one may easily ascertain by observing them, in skirmishing order in front of a line at Aldershot, where they look like so many crows.

Le Couteur's work, with which I am unacquainted, but which is quoted in a letter inserted in the *Times* of May 24th, contains curious and carefully-compiled-looking tables respecting the appearance of various colours at different distances, which result in showing that grey or reddish brown is the best for riflemen at all distances. The writer adds his recommendation on the subject of uniform, and proposes a brown foraging cap with a brown leather top to it, enclosing flat plates of steel to resist sword cuts, to which in the open riflemen would be much exposed from cavalry; a brown cloth shooting

jacket, rather tight at the waist, but very loose over the shoulders, sabre-proof shoulder-straps of bronzed chain; accoutrements all brown; a great coat with hood. He adds that it would scarcely be known whether troops clad in this way were advancing or retreating till their faces were seen.

In many cases it is suggested that a wide-awake would form the best head-dress. Now, a wide-awake has no advantage over a smart forage cap that I am aware of, except being "less soldier-like;" and it has this certain disadvantage, that it holds water in the leaf, and is quite unsuited for passing through copses or underwood, and is easily blown off in windy weather, unless secured by a strap. All shakos, cocks' plumes, and feathers and tufts, are supererogatories and foolishness; in action they are vanities, dangerous exceedingly, and any amount of wide-awakism is better than such a head-dress. Once visiting the Sardinian outposts across the Tchernaya, my attention was drawn to what I at first thought was a large black pheasant-like bird struggling in the top of a bush some distance in my front. A closer and nearer inspection resolved this phenomenon into the cock's plume of a Piedmontese bersagliero, who, cunningly hid by the bush, was hanging out this banner to show his enemy where his body was; and on looking along the line, I detected one rifleman after another by this piece of cock's-combry. The Russians, on the contrary, were wonderfully practical in all such matters: often and often our duck and snipe shooters in the marshes near Inkerman, or our prying reconnoiters, have heard the bizz of the rifle bullet past their ears, and looked in vain for the quarter whence it came till a faint whiff of smoke rising from the ground revealed the position of their crouching enemy. From my hut near Cath-

cart's hill the view extended across the plateau from Inkerman to Mackenzie's Farm, and so round by the extreme left of the Russians' position, and hour by hour, in day after day, have I watched the battalions of the enemy at exercise, through my glass; but there they might be in many thousands and the eye would never be attracted to them. It was only when the sun lighted up their polished barrels, or flashed off in quivering, dancing rays from the long lines of bayonets, that their position or movements could be detected: then, by the glass, one could ascertain their formation. But of an ordinary day, in small bodies or individually, the Russians were as little distinguishable from the country around them as mites are in a cheese.

A stout foraging cap with a straightish leather peak, something like the French kepi, fits the head well, protects the eyes, is not readily seen when the wearer is in close cover, as it barely rises above the top of the head, and answers every purpose for which a head-dress can be required, except that it will not keep off rain from the back of the neck. But, alas! so it is, that nothing known to me will keep rain thence or from other places if the man is using his arms. For outpost duty in cold raw weather a great-coat of some sort is certainly advisable; but if it rains heavily, military great-coats become saturated. Macintoshes, policemen's capes, oil-skins, and such preparations and protectors, are not *me judice* of much, if any, use in campaigning; and it is for campaigning, for out-of-doors work in campaigns, that our Volunteers are intended, if, unhappily, there ever arises any use of them at all beyond the wholesome stimulation of a proper spirit among the people. There is no danger of our mistaking the forage cap for the French kepi, or *vice versa*; for the kepi has a

piping, a band, or a number upon it, and is always blue or red.

Provided that the dress is commodious and simple, and that it is fit for work, it matters very little of what it is composed, or of what form and cut it is. The Russian volunteers wore loose trousers tucked into their boots, a plain frock buttoning across the chest, and confined at the waist by a broad leather belt, and on their heads a plain flat cap, with a Maltese cross in the front. The sword is sufficient distinction for an officer, but officers are men, and they will be sure to have something more striking in their uniform than is altogether necessary. Of course the local corps and clubs will dress as they like, and it is no harm to encourage distinctiveness in dress in each ; but from all we can hear, Garibaldi's men do not fight the less successfully or valiantly because they wear no uniform at all. Still, it is to be recommended, if it were only for its economy, that the men of each corps or club should be dressed the same way in some cheap plain attire, suited to the practice-ground and parade.

CHAPTER IV.

ARMS AND ACCOUTREMENTS—REMARKS ON
RIFLES, ETC.

It is of little consequence what sort of weapon is put into the hands of proved bad shots, but a bad rifle will prevent a man ever becoming a good shot, for its performance will destroy that confidence and steadiness which is the basis of sharp-shooting. Still the knowledge of one's weapon will, after long practice in the hands of an enthusiast, obviate some of the disadvantages of an imperfect trajectory, or of a deflection in the barrel. So far will such knowledge go, that it sometimes induces men to believe the article with which they were familiar was better than the best firearm that can be placed in their possession. Thus I remember that there were some in the Rifle Brigade who thought their old pattern rifle superior to the beautiful Enfield. I can scarcely imagine any practical use in a weapon which is not possessed by a rifle capable of straight strong shooting at 1200 yards, at which distance a man is so small an object in the open that he cannot be covered by the sight, or rather he is obliterated by it. Even a regiment advancing in column presents a wonderfully small front when at the distance of 1500 or 1600 yards. With the flank exposed in the usual order of march, if a regiment crosses the line of sight at that distance, there appear only a number of distinct small specks moving slowly over the ground,

each rank being resolved into one little body. Unquestionably men might be struck down by a sharp fire by chance shots from a body of riflemen ; but I hold that it would be absurd to expect to stop either cavalry or artillery or infantry at such a distance, though it might somewhat discourage the latter to see their comrades hit by fire from such remote bodies of men—that is, they would be discouraged if they were exposed to it without an opportunity of reply ; but the natural instinct of the soldier would teach him that the best thing to do in such a case, if he would not retreat, would be to advance at once upon his enemy, and come to close quarters as quickly as possible.

For all practical uses as the arms of a general volunteer force, there is no better weapon than the new regulation Enfield musket, with improved ammunition. Unquestionably there is or has been difficulty in loading it ; but that, I believe, is owing to the bad ammunition, which has been brought to the notice of the authorities repeatedly. They are now diminishing the size of the bullet without affecting the shooting at all appreciably, and yet increasing the facility of loading in rough hands. I am not at all sure that our Government powder is always the best in the world ; it certainly leaves a larger residuum than the shooting powder of several private makers ; but it must be remembered that rapidity of combustion depending on the size of the grains varies in its effects according to the nature of the object to be propelled, and that explosive force is gained, as in blasting powder, by large grains, which would not be applicable to small arms. A great difference can be made in the shooting of the same rifle, by the use of powder of different degrees of fineness. The *great improvement*, however, which is to be effected

by the introduction of the system of breech-loading will some fine day obviate all difficulties connected with the use of the ramrod. All improvements in firearms increase the expense of the weapon or of its ammunition, augment the labours of the ordnance department, and add to the artificial nature of warfare, which, since it was first waged "with nails and fists," has been improving progressively.

Of course, the cost of warfare is thus becoming greater in every century. The old Roman legionary, or the Greek mercenary, set out at first with nothing but sword or spear and shield, with such defensive armour as was in use at the time, and thus equipped he was ready to march to the end of the world if he could find food on his way. But now enormous departments are called into play. The ordnance has to feed the guns and rifles, the commissariat must provide the food for the men of the army. Vast stores must be accumulated all over the world, and a lengthened campaign would become quite impossible, if the troops of any Power were cut off from their real basis of operations—the arsenals whence they obtain special ammunition for their special arms. The nation which has the command of the seas, and has the largest amount of money to spend, provided she can find men to fight, has, therefore, the best chance of obtaining the final advantage in any armed contest. There is another matter of less importance than those others enumerated, but still of great weight, and that is the power of producing special arms of precision. We must not place too much reliance on those arms, but it is quite evident as our army is small in comparison with its enormous extension of duties, as its members are affected by popular sentiment, or the condition of those classes from which it is recruited, and as its relative proportions

for home and foreign service are enormously affected by political accidents abroad or in the colonies, that we should have each man armed as perfectly as our wealth and mechanical genius can make him. First the Government must supply those arms for the regular forces. If that supply is adequate to all demands, the propriety of giving similar arms to our volunteers may be considered. At present the Enfield factories are turning out very perfect weapons, but the number is not equal to the requirements of the service, regard being had to the wear and tear and damage of arms, and the completion of our arsenals. So that the Government is obliged to take the supplement from private manufacturers, who turn out Enfields according to sample as fast as they are ordered, and who are in a condition to meet the present orders of the volunteers. From what I can hear, there would be no difficulty in executing orders for 200,000 rifles to be delivered, from time to time, within twelve months in England. The cost would be at least 2,000,000*l.*, including common equipments; no small addition to the indirect taxation of the country, which has the prospect of an increase of income-tax; but the money would be spent in the country, and it would be diffused among the classes which might give us some thousands of hardy skilful volunteers, enabled, by the increase in their earnings, to surrender a few hours in the year to drill.

There would be no practical use in attempting to analyse the merits of the various rifles which have been submitted to public notice. The man who has spent his life, his money, and his best energies in improving and inventing, must often rest content with the barren honours which *posterity*, when in the mood for research, may feel inclined to record upon

his tombstone, if he has one. The inventor of the Armstrong gun may be an exception to the truth of this remark; and I trust Captain Norton will live to prove its inapplicability. In the golden returns which the present age has made to Colonel Colt, he, no doubt, finds full compensation for his admirable adaptations: but, as a general rule, there has been hitherto only scant encouragement to those who have "invented"—that is, discovered the application of a principle to the art of war, or the manufacture of its implements. Now-a-days there is this immense advantage open to the practical mechanic, that he can obtain public support for his inventions, if they be of real merit, for he can give publicity to their pretensions; and there is now, we hope, an overwhelming demand for the work of every good manufacturer.

Until recently the military authorities in England never turned their attention to the improvement of arms, and all the earlier inventions were German, French, or Italian. France has the merit of putting into practical shape the speculations respecting the means of diminishing windage and increasing range; and, so far as I am aware, the principle of the expanding bullet was never known before 1842. To Captain Minié belongs the credit of perfecting that rifle which, with its peculiar ball, is rapidly superseding, in various forms and with many improvements, the whole system of firearms which obtained in civilized Europe for more than a century; but Captain Delvigne must be held to have aided him most materially by his previous researches and improvements. Mr. Whitworth advances claims to the discovery of the true principles which regulate projectiles. Though the great mechanical abilities of that gentleman are unquestioned, and his appliances unrivalled, it may be safely

asserted that he has not discovered or invented anything new in principle which was not known to every mathematician and to the older writers on projectiles; but, at the same time, he has, in the application of his knowledge, effected such an improvement that it amounts almost to a discovery or invention. With his new rifle barrels of polygonal bore (hexagon), having a turn in 20 inches in a barrel 39 inches long, he has produced very extraordinary results. The leaden bolt fits into the hexagon (of which the sides of the cuts are rounded off gradually) so tightly that windage is abolished, and being forced out without stopping, at a high velocity, with enormously rapid revolution on its axis, it has an accuracy and length of range beyond that of any similar missile. Admirable as this weapon may be, and no doubt is, it would be many years ere it could be introduced into an army; and I hold that whatever arm may be found to be the best, should be given to every soldier in our service as soon as the means exist of providing it. All the apprehensions entertained of the results of rudeness, ignorance, and roughness on firearms have been falsified. The sights are not knocked off, the stocks are not broken, the locks are not deranged. It is said, indeed, that soldiers in the heat of action won't use their sliding-rests; but it would be more correct to say that those who would not have used the fixed sights of the old musket "under certain" circumstances, prove equally indifferent or nervous as to the use of the sliding-sight. There should be but one sort of musket in use for all infantry; for the day seems rapidly approaching when the several duties of all troops will be those now considered merely peculiar to light infantry, though battles will be gained, as before, *by the united action* of those men in masses, aided

by the fire of artillery and the demonstrations of cavalry.

Notwithstanding the care that may be taken to prevent the secrets of the manufacture of special arms being known, it is certain that they are soon diffused in foreign States, and that no country can hope to retain for any length of time in practice in the field any engine of war of great excellence for its own special use. England can perhaps give her army the best of everything with the least amount of difficulty. The present Government rifle is equal to anything in the hands of foreign armies, and meantime our mechanics are improving and inventing in small details; so that we may be able at the next epoch of development to shoot ahead of our competitors once more, if the authorities, who in these hard times are much beset and pressed upon, will accede to the more reasonable propositions made to them.

But with great humility I beg to record my own conviction that rifles and riflemen, no matter how much the former may be improved and the latter drilled, can never in the long run maintain a combat with field artillery; whatever improvements can be introduced into shoulder arms, can be adapted to carriage guns. We now hear that the French artillery at Montebello did execution on the Austrian columns at the distance of two English miles. It is needless to say that at such a distance a battery or troop of artillery would be scarcely visible, and that no rifle fire could produce any effect upon them. On the open the Armstrong gun has little to fear from riflemen, if it throws shell as well as shot, and if it can give a good ricochet fire; but there are undoubtedly positions, such as those of Godfrey and his few rifles at Balaklava, in which riflemen will

have a decided and special advantage over guns, and our riflemen ought to be taught and ought to learn what these advantages are. In the Crimea, after weeks of the most rude practical experience, it was found that our riflemen entertained undue notions as to the actual effect of artillery fire, and Sir John Burgoyne issued special orders, in which he encouraged the men to maintain their position in the rifle pits when guns were opened upon them, and directed them to remark that the heavier the fire of the enemy's pieces upon them, the more certain was it that the riflemen were distressing the Russians, and the more resolutely ought they to continue their work. Field artillery, being of inferior calibre and range, is, of course, less destructive; but there can be no doubt of the impression made by even six-pound shot *rushing* along over the heads of men in cover, or plunging and ricochetting alongside them. Good cover, however, fortifies a rifleman's position against round shot, but it will not protect him so completely against even horizontal shell, and is of no use against vertical fire. It would not be a bad plan, whenever there might be artillery practice ranges, to place a few of the steadier men from time to time in such positions as would enable them to judge of the effects of round shot in passing through the air, or in ricochet. Once able to divest his mind of the mere moral effect of the round shot, a sticky, tenacious rifleman will hang on to his little clump or bank of earth, and at seven hundred or eight hundred yards make the service of the gun a most unpleasant and dangerous duty; but if he "bolts" all his uses are gone. Tenacity in defence, celerity and audacity in attack, combined with accuracy of fire, are the chief merits of soldiers, whether volunteers or not.

Reading books will never teach a man to shoot

straight, and therefore I do not intend to cumber these pages with instructions as to practice; but if any one desires such instructions, he can get them in the Government manuals, and in the meritorious work of Lieutenant Hans Busk, of the Victoria Rifles. Five minutes' oral teaching by word of mouth will do more to make a man comprehend the art of STRIKING a mark with a bullet than the most laborious study; and when he has learned how to do the thing well, and has done it well, it will be time for him to sit down and study the theory if he likes, and calculate trajectories, lines of sight, parabolas, momentum, force of gravity, and cubes or squares of resistance.

If the Government could supply arms to all the Volunteers, either at cost price or as a free gift, it would perhaps be better to adopt that course as tending to secure uniformity of gauge, than to leave each corps to purchase arms as they may. The result would be pretty much the same, as the expense will fall directly or indirectly on the country of which the Volunteers form part. But, as regards the *morale* of the men, it would accord best with the genius of free corps of Volunteers that each man should carry arms bought by his own money directly.

The War-Office Circular has very wisely and properly pointed out the necessity of the adoption of the Government gauge for rifles, in order that Government ammunition may be available for Volunteers. I would venture to recommend that the intended reduction in the size of the bullet be immediately carried out; and it would be well for the authorities to institute experiments in order to ascertain whether the present lubricating composition of beeswax, &c., applied to the cartridge, does not form a sort of concrete inside the barrel after

several discharges, which greatly impedes the operation of loading, and often renders the rifle useless in action. There is very little doubt that in India the composition applied to some sets of cartridges caked inside the barrel, and presented an effectual obstacle to the passage of the bullet downwards. I have seen blacklead somewhere recommended as a lubricating substance, and the suggestion is worthy of a trial. The blacklead will assuredly blacken the soldiers' fingers, but so does gunpowder; and it does not much signify, if one's fingers must be blackened, to what extent the operation is carried.

Greater changes have taken place since Napoleon declared the firelock (old Brown Bess of England, whose complexion was somewhat brighter and clearer in France) was the most perfect weapon ever devised by man, than in any century of the life of fire-arms; but it does not appear that the new arms of precision add to the loss of life, quicken the results of fighting, or alter the nature of manœuvres in the field. The pre-Minié battles were just as sanguinary as recent conflicts in Italy—just as the fighting there has been as close as that at Fontenoy or Blenheim. The arms which will be most affected by long-range weapons are cavalry and artillery. So said the friends of the new far-shooters; but, just as in the old time, despite of Tyrolese jägers, and French chasseurs and Sardinian bersaglieri, cavalry have charged infantry and have taken guns, and artillery has held its own and crushed whole battalions armed with rifles by its superior fire. It is in sieges that the new arms will be most effective. We must above all things recollect that a good rifle does not make a good marksman. Delvigne, Minié, Norton, Jacob, Lancaster, Colt, and others, by their experiments on *the best form of bullet*, on the best mode of rifling,

have enabled us to arrive at great perfection in fire-arms, which mechanical genius is busy in developing to a higher power; but little has been added to our stock of abstract knowledge respecting the principles of gunnery since the days of Robins and other writers, who took an accurate grasp of the whole subject. In practice of gunnery immense steps have been taken in order to gain the vantage ground which was supposed to be taken from field artillery by small arms, and we now have the Armstrong gun and the French rifled cannon with ranges which seem to give the solid-shot fire of field-pieces their old superiority of range.

It would be very interesting to ascertain, if possible, what was the consumption of ammunition at the recent fights in Italy, in order that we might see whether the proportion of killed and wounded among the combatants had been increased by the new arms. It is tolerably well established that the proportion of killed to wounded has been much increased by the Minié bullet, as the wounds are much larger and more dangerous than those made by the old spherical ball. Our ordinary calculations as to the number of bullets required to put an enemy *hors de combat* are erroneous. They assume that *all* the men on each side were engaged and fired at each other, whereas that is far from being the case. When an army of 60,000 men is beaten, it is probable that 15,000 or more were never engaged at all, and that they move off the field as soon as the fate of the fighting columns is determined, so that, in effect, the number of rounds expended in killing and wounding the enemy per man is greater than it is usually taken to be. At the Alma two regiments of the Russians were not engaged, and at Inkerman the reserves were scarcely able to fire a shot. 18

20,000 rounds of ammunition ever can be made to effect the destruction of even 5000 men in the time in which they could be fired by a battalion of a thousand strong, war would most probably cease altogether. But what would happen if two bodies of men were to find themselves at 400 yards apart with the same arms of precision? Would they stand firing at each other till all were shot off, after the manner of the *felinæ* of Kilkenny?

If we could procure a sufficient number of breech-loaders in time for our wants, I would say by all means adopt them in our rifle corps, but I fear that, at first, we must be content to accept a scanty supply of the Enfield or of the Lancaster. There are many carbines for cavalry—two sorts of breech-loaders, Terry's and Sharp's—the others muzzle-loading, such as Lancaster's; but carbines are too short to carry sword-bayonets with effect so as to enable the riflemen to form square to resist cavalry or to protect themselves sufficiently; and I think the weapon adopted should not be less in length than the Enfield, viz., four feet six inches, making, with the bayonet, a little more than six feet from heel-plate to point. Needham, Westley Richards, and others have constructed excellent breech-loaders, but how are they to furnish us with hundreds of thousands of them, well made and of moderate price, in the space of a few weeks? It would require all the exertions of all our makers to meet the demand for 200,000 arms in six months. The breech-loader is preferable, because it does not require the heavy troublesome ramrod, dispenses with a dangerous form of the operation of loading, and is not so liable to choking, &c., whilst it possesses all, or nearly all, the advantages of the best form of the muzzle-loading rifle. Above all, it enables a rifleman to *load without exposure* or rising from cover.

From the facts which have come within my own experience I am led to believe that, in twenty years, there will not be a ramrod made for any description of shoulder firearm; but at present, breech-loading rifles cannot be manufactured cheaply and well, though they can be made well at a price which forbids the extension of the weapon to a large infantry force. There are many kinds of breech-loaders, but those I have seen in service, which are those given to certain cavalry regiments in India, seem subject to a serious drawback—the powder falls out, and the piece is rendered ineffective during the jolting of a march.

There is an objection to Sharp's carbine which is to some extent well founded, but as to its shooting straight and strong there can be no doubt; and I have seen Lieutenant Patrick Stewart (now Major Stewart), of the Bengal Engineers, making very good practice with it on the banks of the Ganges and elsewhere, at very long ranges, whilst at short I have seen him use it with success with Jacob's shells in firing the charges for the destruction of the Hindoo temples commanding our bridge across the Ganges at Cawnpore. Of Terry's I have seen nothing, but have heard much from admirable judges; and Lieutenant Hans Busk, in his excellent work on the *Rifle*, seems satisfied with the testimony that has been adduced of its efficiency and merits. Whitworth's rifle is too slowly produced and too dear to be largely introduced at present; and I doubt that it will ever become the arm for the service unless it be made to load at the breech. The mechanical ability and means of this gentleman, however, have produced immense results; and if our men could be armed with such rifles as he has made and exhibited, we might have more reason for our contempt of field artillery.

Here is a record of what was actually done by Mr. Whitworth's rifles, when compared with the Enfield, at Chatham.

THE WHITWORTH AND ENFIELD RIFLES.

The following table gives the best results that were obtained from 10 shots of each arm respectively in the course of the experiments, which extended over a week in time:—

RIFLE.	Range in yards.	Elevation.	Figure of Merit.
		Deg.	Feet.
Whitworth.....	500	{ 1.15	0.37
Enfield		{ 1.32	2.24
Whitworth.....	800	{ 2.22	1.0
Enfield		{ 2.45	4.11
Whitworth.....	1,100	{ 3.45	2.41
Enfield		{ 4.12	8.04
Whitworth.....	1,400	{ 5.	4.62
Enfield		{ 6.20 to 7.	No hits.
Whitworth.....	1,880	{ 6.40	11.62
Enfield		{ —	—

It would appear from these figures that at 500 yards in 10 shots the Manchester rifle has a superior accuracy of 1.87 of a foot; at 800 yards 3.11; at 1100 yards 5.63; and that at 1400 yards and upwards the Enfield weapon ceases to afford any *data* for a comparison. In penetration the results obtained have been equally decisive; the Whitworth projectile with the regulation charge of powder going through 33 half-inch planks of elm, and being brought up by a solid oak bulk beyond, while the Enfield ball could not get past the 13th plank.

The shooting on the following day was more to

satisfy Lord Panmure and the other strangers present upon the comparative merits of the two weapons than to show the limit of what each could do under favourable circumstances. Still, the targets of every 10 shots on either side bore decisive evidence of the superiority of the new rifle, as a glance at the following table will prove:—

RIFLE.	Range.	Elevation.	Figure of Merit.
		Deg.	Feet.
Whitworth..... } Enfield }	800	{ 2.22 2.45	{ 1.41 5.67
Whitworth..... } Enfield }	500	{	{ 1.27 3.30
Whitworth..... } Enfield }	500	{	{ 1.33 4.01

The last entry in the table records the mean radial distance from a central point of 10 shots fired from a table-rest by Colonel Hay and Mr. Guner, the manager of the Enfield factory. Both are first-rate marksmen, yet at 500 yards the Manchester rifle in the hands of the former gives three times as good shooting as the latter can get out of the Government arm. All the other trials were made by firing from a beautifully-constructed machine rest, which placed both weapons on a footing of perfect equality as to the conditions under which they were tested. In addition to the foregoing experiments, there was one for showing that with cylindro-convoidal balls on the expansion principle of those used for the Enfield rifle very superior shooting could be obtained from Whitworth's hexagonal bore. This was most satisfactorily established, the mean deviation on the target from the centre of the group of 10 hits being

only .85 of a foot at 500 yards' range. It will be observed that at 800 yards' range, at which the practice commenced, the shooting of Whitworth's rifle was so much better than the other that no greater distance was attempted. A reference to the first table of experiments will also demonstrate that the target made by the former weapon at 1100 yards is nearly as good as that made by the latter at 500. By the polygonal bore and rapid pitch to which the form of the bullet accurately conforms, Mr. Whitworth has rendered stripping impossible, and his rifle when fired acting exactly like a male and female screw, the projectile must rotate with perfect steadiness and precision on its axis. He can increase its length so considerably as to secure space for converting it into a shell if necessary, and, being able to use metal of any degree of hardness, he can adapt its form and strength exactly to the work which it has to perform. Thus, with a rifle 39 inches long and half-inch bore, having a turn in 20 inches, or two turns in its length, he finds no difficulty in penetrating a wrought-iron plate 6-10ths of an inch thick, or cutting a core out of a piece of solid timber half a foot thick; and some idea may be formed of the extraordinary power of his arm when we mention that his projectiles in their flight rotate at the rate of 15,000 revolutions per minute. The question of driving holes in the 4-inch breastplates of floating batteries is at once solved by the application of these principles to artillery.

Next to Mr. Whitworth's arms are those made by Mr. Lancaster, in his well-known method of boring, which is in effect another contrivance like Mr. Whitworth's to prevent windage and to communicate a rapid rotatory motion to the cone-shaped projectile.

Lancaster's principle, which seemed to have failed

in the siege-guns before Sebastopol, has asserted its excellence most remarkably in the rifle. Having first stated that Mr. Lancaster is prepared to furnish his oval-bore sapper's-pattern rifle, with sword and scabbard, at 5*l.* 5*s.*, let me proceed to show what this weapon has done. In the first place, it is to be recollected that the guns which burst before Sebastopol were cannon of the ordinary make and diameter, bored upon the Lancaster principle, and that the test was rude enough and not quite fair. Those who have heard the Lancaster shot rushing, like the maddest express, with a fitful palpitating noise, into the enemy's batteries, will not readily forget the peculiar effect of these tremendous but erratic missiles.

ST. GEORGE'S RIFLE RANGE.

MALTA, 2nd May, 1857.

Detail of the hours of firing and piling arms of 10 men, 17th Company Royal Engineers, with the Lancaster Carbine, 60 rounds having been fired from each rifle at different periods, extending over two entire days, without cleaning.

Date.	Men.	Rounds per man.	Hours of commencement of firing.	Hours of piling arms.	Remarks.
1857. 30 April.	10	10	11 A.M.	1 P.M.	The ten men were divided into Sa. Ss. The arms were piled in the sun during the day and in a tent during the night.
	R.S.	10	2.20 P.M.	3 P.M.	
	L.S.	10	3 P.M.	3.25 P.M.	
	R.S.	10	3.50 P.M.	4.20 P.M.	
	L.S.	10	4.20 P.M.	4.55 P.M.	
1 May.	10	10	9.30 A.M.	10.20 A.M.	The registers were compared with the targets and diagrams taken at the conclusion of the practice of each party.
	L.S.	10	10.45 A.M.	11.20 A.M.	
	R.S.	10	11.20 A.M.	12 noon.	
	L.S.	10	2.30 P.M.	3.10 P.M.	
	R.S.	10	3.10 P.M.	4 P.M.	

(Signed)

W. B. COWBURN,
71st H.L. Infantry,
Instructor.

[A]

A Return of two Companies of the Corps of Royal Engineers under Instruction at St. George's Rifle Ranges, showing their practice with four rounds per man at 300, before and after preliminary practice.

Compara- sons.	Sec- tion.	Before preliminary instructions.				After preliminary instructions.			
		Men.	Rounds per man.	Points.	Average.	Men.	Rounds per man.	Points.	Average.
1	1	22	4	13	0.59	22	4	64	2.90
"	2	20	"	33	1.65	20	"	77	3.55
"	3	20	"	16	0.80	20	"	51	2.55
"	4	22	"	20	0.90	22	"	60	2.72
17	1	23	"	16	0.69	23	"	62	2.69
"	2	22	"	15	0.68	22	"	45	2.04
"	3	17	"	20	1.17	17	"	58	3.41
"	4	21	"	23	1.09	21	"	65	3.09
		167		156	* 0.93	167		482	* 2.88

* These figures in the two columns under the head of average points show the merit of the practice before and after preliminary instruction.

N.B. These two companies were armed with the Lancaster carbine.

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* These figures in the two columns under the head of average points show the merit of the practice before and after preliminary instruction.
N.B. These two companies were armed with the Lancaster carbine.

(Signed)

A. LANE FOX,

B.-Major, Gren. Guards,
Chief Instructor of Musketry.

Report of the Non-commissioned Officers and Men who underwent instruction at the School of Musketry, Hythe, including the practice of Non-commissioned Officers training for the Corps of Instructors of Musketry.

FROM APRIL, 1854, TO MAY, 1855.

Average points obtained per man in undermentioned practices.										Number in each class at conclusion of the course.
Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	As a Company in 3rd class, each man firing 20 rounds.	File and volley firing 10 per man.	Skirmishing.		Total describing merit of firing.	3rd.	2nd.	1st.	Per centage of 1st class shots.	
			1st practice 10 per man.	2nd ditto 10 per man.						
·97	11·62	7·68	3·61	2·35	25·26	28	61	8	8·25	Minié Musket.
·142	10·75	7·22	5·63	3·09	26·29	48	88	6	4·22	Minié.
·20	12·35	8·05	3·10	3·15	26·65	4	12	4	20·00	Minié.
·123	12·21	7·60	4·15	1·39	25·38	35	49	38	32·80	Enfield.
·162	15·33	8·25	2·93	2·69	29·20	85	85	50	30·70	Enfield.

FROM MAY, 1855, TO MAY, 1856.

·120	14·44	8·66	4·60	2·73	29·83	15	92	13	10·83	Enfield.
·194	15·01	8·70	4·31	3·32	31·34	13	109	72	37·11	Enfield.
·173	16·66	9·10	4·53	3·37	33·66	15	97	61	35·26	Enfield.
·128	18·36	9·86	4·73	2·99	35·94	2	69	57	44·53	Enfield.

FROM MAY, 1856, TO APRIL, 1857.

·164	17·10	9·86	4·45	3·73	35·14	3	89	72	43·75	Enfield.
·135	18·19	9·47	5·37	4·83	37·86	4	52	79	58·51	Enfield.
·143	18·84	10·46	5·04	4·64	38·98	2	59	82	57·34	Enfield.
·153	17·24	9·90	4·13	4·13	37·52	2	55	96	62·74	Enfield.

Return showing the practice of two Companies of Royal Engineers at Malta, in 1856, armed with the Lancaster Elliptical Bore Carbine, 577 bore, as compared with the practice conducted at the School of Musketry, Hythe, with the Minié and Enfield Rifles, since the opening of that establishment for instruction in April, 1854, to the present time.

*Two Companies of Royal Engineers at Malta armed with the Lancaster Elliptical Carbine,
577 bore.*

Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Average points per man obtained in undermentioned practices.				Number in first class at the conclusion of the course.		
	As a Company in 3rd class, each man firing 20 rounds.	Skirmishing.		Total denoting the merit of the firing.	3. 2. 1	Per centage of 1st class shots.	Arm.
		First practice, 10 rounds per man.	Second practice, 10 rounds per man.				
189	17.98	11.75	7.59	42.78	2.18.147	77.77	Lancaster Carbine.

Those are very great results, and speak very highly for the rifles produced by this celebrated maker.

The Jacob's rifle has a high character in India. The lamented officer who perfected it spent years of his life and thousands of his money in experiments on fire-arms, the results of which were freely communicated to his countrymen; and I had hoped to have seen with my own eyes the city he founded, and the scene of his labours at Jacobabad, but my journey was frustrated by the intelligence of the gallant, eccentric, and devoted soldier's death.

The diagram on the opposite page has been supplied to me by Mr. Daw, who guarantees its accurate representation of practice, made with one of his Jacob's rifles, by Lieutenant Hans Busk, whose name is sufficient evidence of the trustworthiness of the very admirable results.

Daw's prices are:—Single Jacob's rifle, in quantities of not less than fifty, 4*l.* 10*s.*; Enfield pattern, 2*l.* 10*s.* each, with sword-bayonet, 4*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* (better quality). The retail prices would be 20*s.* extra.

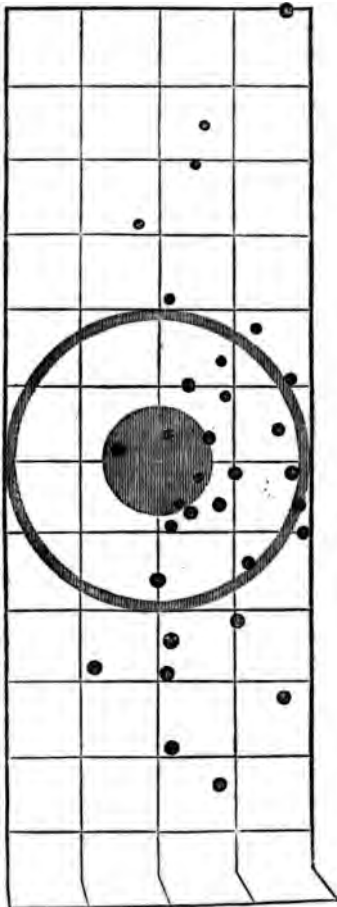
The Government Enfields are of uniform make in stock weight, as are all national warlike implements of the same sort in every country in the world; but when volunteers purchase their own arms, they can get the makers to fit their shoulders, and adjust the weight, length, pull of trigger, curve of stock, and such matters, to their individual fancy or requirements. Mr. Pritchett recommends a rifle 2 ft. 9 in. .577 bore, brass mounted, barrel attached by hand, and stocked up to the muzzle, as the maker thinks no bayonet is required; the sling to go below the guard. Each rifle to have a stopper, snap-cap, and cleaning-rod and nipple-key. Price 85*s.*

A better quality—2 ft. 9 in., iron mounted, with break-off sho'ts, a sword-knife, cleaning-rod, stopper,

Target, 6ft. by 2ft. ; 8in. bull's-eye.

DATE. 16 October, 1863.
NAME. Hans Busk.
DISTANCE. 500 yards.
WEATHER. Clear, Windy.
NO. OF ROUNDS FIRED. 36.
NO. OF HITS. 32.
DESCRIPTION OF RIFLE. Jacob's, made by G. H. DAW, Threadneedle-street, London.
DESCRIPTION OF AMMUNITION. Conical bullet. flat base. (32.)
OBSERVATIONS. 30 rounds, fired from rest. 6 from the shoulder.

Wind.



sling, snap-cap, and nipple-key, complete. Price 140s. The objections to small bores are mainly on the unwieldy form which the cartridge assumes, which in the case of a .450 bore, for example, is 6 inches long.

Mr. Needham's patent breech-loading fowling-piece has obtained a high character among sportsmen; and as the principle seems equally adapted for rifles, there is no doubt but that it would answer extremely well when in action, being rapid and easy in use, and, as I understand, very safe, and not liable to foul. An old sportsman in India told me he had used a rifle on Needham's principle in the jungle for two years, and found it excellent in all points, though requiring great care in wet weather. Mr. Needham is prepared to furnish steel-mounted military breech-loading rifles, in quantities, with sword, &c., complete, for 5*l.* 5*s.*

Holland and Son are prepared to supply Volunteer Rifle Corps at the present Government contract prices—I presume with the ordinary Enfield and apparatus.

The London Armoury Company are prepared to supply Volunteer Rifle Corps with Enfield rifle and bayonet at 60*s.* net cash, and to furnish the short rifle and sword-bayonet for 80*s.*, of the same quality as those furnished to Government. Westley Richards has arranged to make "a best military rifle at 10*l.*, if ordered in quantities of not less than twenty, and paid for on delivery," and is prepared to make his new breech-loader at the same price, putting his name on it as a guarantee of its good quality and performance.

Here are plenty and to choose. Old Turenne used to say, "As many victories are won by the shovel *as by the musket*;" and Boufflers declared that "It

is the good soldier who makes the good musket." But notwithstanding all that, I think our volunteers should be armed with the best that is to be had as soon as it can be had.

I have recently seen two ingenious weapons made by Mr. Treeby, of Westbourne-park Villas, which deserve mention and consideration. One is a simple and, in my mind, a very excellent breech-loading rifle, very simple, very safe, and very strong. The breech moves out on the stock by the action of a lever, discloses the breech for the insertion of the cartridge, and then is moved up on a screw, so as to close over the breech impact on the cartridge, and to keep it impervious from air or wet, fitting so closely as to render escape of gas from explosion impossible. The other weapon is singularly clever, though it is not, I am bound to say, adapted for field service. The novelty consists in a chain of chambers, which may be multiplied so as to reach the ground. Each of these is loaded, and, by a very clever contrivance, each is brought up to the end of the barrel, is received there at the moment of discharge, and then drops out to make room for another, with such rapidity that the fire is all but continuous, being, in fact, only interrupted by the movement of the hand in working the lever which pulls up the chain. For defence of fixed positions, for firing from a house or loophole, this weapon has most extraordinary powers; and the chains of chambers may be kept filled and fitted on the gun as required, so that one man can maintain an incessant fire, which is, I am assured, not checked by any undue heating of the barrel.

The use of the revolver in the hands of officers is objectionable only on one ground—that, though it may often get a man out of a scrape, it tends to do

away with the habit of giving quarter to an enemy, and it encourages men to make resistance in hopeless positions. For men who wish to sell their lives as dearly as possible, and to die fighting to the last, it is an excellent weapon at close quarters. It was asserted by the Russians that officers at Inkerman who had surrendered suddenly drew their revolvers, and, shooting the guards who were conducting them to the rear, escaped from their captors in defiance of the usages of battle; but in a war where quarter would not be given, such as patriot wars often are, that consideration would have little influence. I have heard many arguments respecting the advantage of one revolver over another; but this fact has especially struck me as of practical weight, that, out of the *many* accidents which have occurred to the bearers of those weapons at their own hands, *very few indeed have been caused by Colt's revolvers*. In India, Tranter's modification of the Colt is in great favour; but Daw's patent revolver has got into the hands of some officers, who speak of it in the highest terms. It would be unfair not to state that there are some who prefer the new Deane and Adams' revolvers. For strength of shooting there is nothing I ever saw, among the many revolvers which have been produced, comparable to Colt's; and the disadvantage alleged against it of cocking at each discharge has saved many a man's life, by enabling him to take that of his opponent; but it must be admitted that the Colt was liable to the exploded caps sticking, and impeding the revolution. One or two instances of the chamber and of the barrel bursting have come to my knowledge. In the Deane and Adams' revolver a very valuable improvement has been effected by Captain Frederick Beaumont, of *the Royal Engineers*; but Messrs. Deane and Son

claim to have greatly simplified the arrangement in a new pistol, called by them the Deane-Harding revolver. The principle of cocking was combined with that of the trigger discharge only by Captain Beaumont; but the mechanism was very ingenious, and rather delicate, so as to be unfit for manipulation by non-mechanical amateurs; and the Deane-Harding now solves these difficulties and furnishes them with much harmless amusement, by enabling them to pull their pistols to pieces and then put them back again; I am not able to speak of the weapon from actual experience of its virtues in service.

If we are to have cavalry volunteers, a sabre and Colt's revolver will be their proper and sole armament; and Mr. Dennet's improvement in fixing the bayonet might be adopted in the infantry rifles. The tin cartridge boxes are not approved of in practice—at least, in India, they were found to be objectionable. A mounted man, if he has only one revolver, should always carry it on his waist-belt in the case, which should be pushed well back over his right hip, so that in case he falls he may avoid the injury to which he is otherwise liable from falling on the pistol. He ought not to place it in the holster, because if he is separated from his horse he loses his weapon. If he has two revolvers, he can put one in his holster the other round his waist.

CHAPTER V.

GENERAL VIEWS—INVASION AND RESISTANCE.

THE main difficulty which as yet suggests itself in the way of a general armament is the want of means to purchase arms on the part of the most reliable portions of our population, in case the Government decide that they cannot furnish them from the arsenals. There is no use in drawing invidious comparisons between the populations of town and country; but it cannot be denied that, if the inhabitants of cities are possessed of greater intelligence, spirit, and comprehension of military matters, the agricultural population has greater physical power, and is better adapted for forming local corps of sharpshooters. If the Government concede arms to the one, they must grant them to the other; and if they are universally given, there are dangers, which need not be particularly indicated, as of just possible occurrence—the public subscriptions would be cramped, and the spirit of self-sacrifice quenched. No one would buy arms which he thought himself entitled to get for nothing. That would be the case with some of the populations of the towns; on the other hand, if Government do not issue arms, it is quite evident that the mass of our agricultural population will be excluded from a movement in which they are largely interested, and for participation in which they are specially adapted. The difficulty can only be met by a general national subscription, aided by local subscriptions.

It is an unpopular view, but to me it appears sound in theory and in principle, to maintain that no popular resistance has ever been able to save an empire from hostile occupation once the regular forces of that State have been destroyed by another army. The army victorious will march on just as it pleases, and will go where it pleases, and a chief who, safe himself, sought only to humble our pride by the partial destruction and occupation, and by the wholesale pillage of London, or by the arson of our dockyards and arsenals, would not hesitate at sending an army which might well say, as it passed before him, "*Morituri te salutant!*" Of what atonement for such outrages and losses would be hecatombs of the invaders? The picture which Sydney Smith drew years ago of the aspect which our southern rural districts would present in case of an invasion was not much exaggerated, and might not be quite inapplicable now, in case of a similar occurrence; a few months' preparation might render it completely inappropriate. The reverend Canon believed that there is more courage and Christianity in England than in all the rest of the world put together; but he also believed invasion possible at a time when steam-frigates were not; and then did he write what I would not venture to put forth, but which I have courage to quote:—

"You cannot imagine, you say, that England will ever be ruined and conquered, and for no other reason that I can find but because it seems so very odd it should be ruined and conquered. Alas! so reasoned in their time the Austrian, Russian, and Prussian Plymleys. But the English are brave; so were all those nations. You might get together 100,000 men individually brave, but without generals capable of commanding such a machine it would be

as useless as a first-rate man-of-war manned by Oxford clergymen or Parisian shopkeepers. I do not say this to the disparagement of English officers—they have had no means of acquiring experience—but I do say it to create alarm, for we do not appear to me to be half alarmed enough, or to entertain that sense of our danger which leads to the most obvious mode of self-defence. *As for the spirit of the peasantry in making a gallant defence behind hedgerows, and through plate-racks and hen-coops,* highly as I think of their bravery, I do not know any nation in Europe so likely to be struck with panic as the English; and this from their total unacquaintance with the science of war. Old wheat and beans blazing for twenty miles round, cart-mares shot, sows of Lord Somerville's breed running wild over the country, the minister of the parish sorely wounded in his hinder parts, Mrs. Plymley in fits; all these scenes of war an Austrian or a Russian has seen three or four times over; but it is now three centuries since an English pig has fallen in a fair battle on English ground, or a farmhouse been rifled, or a clergyman's wife been subjected to any other proposals of love than the connubial endearments of her sleek and orthodox mate."

When Englishmen boast of the immunity of their shores from invasion, they allude to the recent historical periods; England *was* once at the proud foot of a conqueror. He came from France, and "laws and learning" and an ancient nobility and our modern civilization in most part came with him. We forget, in comparing our condition with that of European states, that we have a real physical defence in the huge wet ditch of the ocean, which can only be bridged permanently by a fleet so superior as to *destroy our own*, though it can be occasionally des-

perately crossed by a forlorn-hope. Had we been a Continental state surrounded by such vast military states as France, Prussia, Austria, and Russia, not all the valour of our people could have protected our frontiers in all times from attack, and our soil from invasion, and the qualities which distinguish a mighty insular people must have been modified by the circumstances around them.

If there should be now, or hereafter, any real danger, or chance remote of danger that this isle or its sister be invaded by a foreign army, it is the absolute and tremendous responsibility of all who are concerned in the government of the country to provide against every contingency by sea and by land. The present Admiralty declare they are taking measures to ensure that the fleet of England shall be equal to any fleet which the combined maritime powers might bring against her. In these measures they should receive the most cordial support ; but at the same time there must not be the chance of a chance of failure. If danger threatens, I say again, that no enemy who has a large regular army, and could land them even for a week, could be opposed successfully by anything but a regular army, and that the Government of the country is responsible for its existence in such a contingency. No enemy who could throw 100,000 men on our shores with cavalry and guns would be withheld by the consideration that we had 200,000 or 500,000 volunteers and men of rifle-clubs scattered all over the kingdom, if he knew that we had only 20,000 regulars to oppose his march on London ; for he would—eventually to his cost—despise volunteers, as all regulars despise irregular forces. The Volunteers would, no doubt, be the avenging, but they could not be the obstructing force. Just in proportion to their discipline would their zeal, skill, and courage become

effective ; and it is, therefore, that they should rather form corps than clubs, and that they should, as far as possible, accede to the regulations and proposals of the Government.

It is plain that when one-third of our recruits and soldiers desert after enlistment, so that out of 91,000 nearly* 30,000 deserted last year, something must be done to render military service more palatable to the respectable portion of the classes which generally contribute to the ranks of the army. In consequence of the enormous increase of this most serious military offence, the time fixed for determining its commission is limited to twenty-four hours, when, as formerly, a soldier was not returned as a deserter till he had been seven days absent from barracks. It is stated by Dr. William Farr that, in 1811, the united land and sea forces of England amounted to 501,000 men, and that, if the proportion of that number to the number of the male population between twenty and forty years of age were maintained at present by the army and navy to the present population, we could show 817,000 sailors and soldiers. It is evident then that, as the exertions of the recruiting establishments failed last year to raise the number voted by Parliament, and that we are 13,000 men short of our proper complement, that there is some cause at work to check the ardour of the people, and that the voluntary principle needs some sort of encouragement to make it adequate to our demands. The novel inducements offered to sailors show that in the present circumstances the navy is not readily manned. We are

* The same man may desert once, twice, or thrice, and is returned so many times as a deserter. The punishment of flogging has been re-established for this offence, and is believed to have checked its progress materially.

told, indeed, not to alarm ourselves ; that, in case of war, volunteers would flock to us in thousands, but we ought to make sure of this. What would we say of a man who was told that his house was likely to catch fire, and who said he would bring a fire-escape or water-buckets as soon as the flame broke out? We must test the readiness and the strength of the nation in this matter, and it will be a subject of much interest to show that we really do possess the hundreds of thousands who are described as willing and waiting for the opportunity to learn the use of arms and to offer their services to the country. It is true that there has been little increase in the male population of France compared with that which has taken place in Great Britain. Dr. Farr states that the number of Frenchmen between the ages of twenty and twenty-five is 1,521,000, whilst that of Englishmen of the same age is just 1,506,000 ; but it must be observed that a much larger proportion of the French is agricultural and rural than of the English people, and the governments of the European states have means of getting at the young men and making them into soldiers which the British War Department does not possess. Comparisons between the nature of our military training, in the days when we used bows and arrows and the present period of the Enfield, are fallacious so far as this consideration is concerned. In the bowyer days every man who owed feudal service was liable to be called into the field to follow his lord, and there was no standing army maintained in Europe. In the Enfield period England is paying twenty-two millions of pounds sterling for her military and naval service, and those who pay it think the service ought to be well done. But if not, will they allow themselves and their country to be ruined?

Against what Power, against what forts in the world, is Napoleon preparing his *frégates cuirassées*? For what object is there an incessant addition to the number of his small gunboats? They may be useful in the war with Austria, but assuredly they will be useful in any war which may follow that contest, which will be probably over in two months' time, if Europe lets the belligerents fight it out. But all such questions and guesses as to motives and events probably spring from the consciousness that we are about to assume a position which will render war with France inevitable. If I see a man on the roadside, it is not likely that, if he is quite indifferent to me, and if there is no significance in the circumstances under which we meet, that I will pay much attention to his air, or notice the big stick he carries in his fist; but if I meditate an attack on that man, his stick assumes a peculiar character. "Why has he got it? What does he carry it for? Why is it so big? Does he mean to begin the assault on me first?" Should the gentleman in question by his antecedents or our previous relations present additional reasons for these suspicions, of course all my inquiries as to his proceedings, appearance, and means of attack or defence become more interesting and personal. I have had conversations with many naval officers of great experience, who admit the exertions of the Government to increase the efficiency of our navy; but they declare that England is not yet in a condition to provoke a naval contest with the combined fleets of France and Russia; and there, notwithstanding, is an evident *animus* of provocation and of defiance manifested on the part of many in this country, who seem never to have considered the consequence of the gage being taken up.

The facts which are alleged to justify this country in the most extraordinary precautions and in the exercise of the utmost vigilance, are simply these—that there is at present, as head of the greatest military and maritime power in the world, a man whose designs are inscrutable, and whose position is dependent on the passions of his army and on the caprices of his people—whilst England shows a mistrust of all his movements and a jealousy of French influence which, however well founded, cannot but produce dangerous results on a relationship of the two states which we approximate in proportion as the French army becomes elated by success, and is placed in a state of inaction by the accomplishment of the political objects for which it was employed. When I say that France is the greatest military and maritime Power in the world, I state an absolute fact; for, though she may not be equal to Russia or Austria in the number of her troops, or to England in the number of her ships, in the combination of both she is superior to any empire in the world. With that Power we have been already and very recently twice on the brink of war, which would have found us in an unprepared and very inadequate condition of military or even naval resistance. Sir Charles Napier can tell what took place when we were within an ace of fighting France in the Mediterranean, on the sudden outbreak of ill-feeling between England and the Cabinet of Louis Philippe; and we know that when fifty-six of our best battalions were suppressing the Indian mutiny, and when our navy was waiting for the development it has recently acquired, a minister of the Crown solemnly declared that we were on the very brink of a war with that Power which was then, as we are told, pre-

paring for the contest with Austria, and which was flushed by the excitement of naval reviews at Cherbourg, Brest, and Toulon. Our unprepared condition might well render our language more cautious, were it not that Englishmen are not accustomed to conceal the expression of their thoughts by any motives of fear; but fear of a personal character is very different from the apprehension of national calamity, and we ought to look on even a successful war as one of the greatest evils that could befall us at this moment. The loss to trade, the stagnation of commerce, the enormous increase of taxation, would in themselves be evils which no successes could countervail. In 1777, when we were at peace with France, we had 60,000 seamen voted for our defence and for the conduct of the war with America, then in full revolt. But although America had not a man to spare from the struggle on land, and had no regular navy, she managed by means of her privateers to cope with all the efforts of our ships, to send her cruisers to run about in the Channel, to harass our coasts, to insult, and even to plunder some of our sea-coast towns. As we find in Dodsley's *Register*, "The inmost and most domestic recesses of our trade were rendered insecure, and a convoy for the protection of linen ships from Dublin and Newry was now for the first time seen." But the sentence which follows will seem still more astounding. "The Thames also presented the unusual and melancholy spectacle of numbers of foreign ships, particularly French, taking in cargoes of English commodities for various parts of Europe, the property of our own merchants, who were thus reduced to seek that protection under the colours of other nations which the British flag used to afford." One privateer took off *Harwich the English* packet from Holland, and towed

her into Dunkirk, whence he despatched the mails to the American ministers at Paris. Even in those days of sailing ships parties of men landed repeatedly and plundered villages, carrying off stock and burning farmhouses. Need it be said that facilities now exist for these operations such as were unknown to our ancestors? France is building gunboats as fast as she can, and if it be true that Russia is pledged to co-operate with France in any European war, I can answer for it that she can assist her ally with a very respectable flotilla of similar vessels, inasmuch as I saw thirty-six under steam at one time off Cronstadt, immediately after the termination of the Anglo-French war with Russia in 1856.

What I would solemnly impress upon my countrymen is, the necessity of immediate action, if there be the smallest danger of war with France singly, or France aided by Russia, now, or at some future period. I would, above all things, deprecate such a war. I do not see its necessity, but I do perceive that our instincts, our jealousies, our interests, or our notions as to our interests, our Germanic sympathies, are dragging us to take ground in such a position that the outbreak of war becomes extremely probable. In France we see on the throne, elected by universal suffrage, the nephew and heir of our great enemy, against whom we fought, and subsidized, and laboured for a quarter of a century, pouring out our best blood, lavishing sums of which we now feel the unprofitable pressure, and resolutely shutting our eyes to any one object but the destruction of the military adventurer who must be recognised now as the founder of a "dynasty of Napoleons." England cannot go back after all the clamour and popular excitement which, if we believe newspaper reports at all, reigned from north to

south, when her youth were first encouraged by Government to enrol themselves as volunteers for the defence of their country. It will be *too late* when the danger comes; and yet I fear that it will be only under the pressure of actual war that our countrymen will comprehend the stern necessity of the case. I understand that Sir John Burgoyne has a work in the press which will give us his notions in reference to "the national defences;" and I anticipate the veteran engineer will astonish the country when he tells them the truth on this point.

There is no question about the fact that in the presence of any actual immediate danger England is very badly provided with defensive means. The troops now at home are for the most part very young; and notwithstanding some opinions expressed by great authorities respecting the military value of raw young soldiers, I should tremble at the prospect of placing an army composed of juvenile and undersized second battalions, with reserves of rifle-clubs and volunteers, to meet the disciplined soldiers of any European Power. On trained militia I would have at least as much reliance as on recently-raised second battalions; but it is evident enough that there is a varying relative proportion between the efficiency of both, and that as one becomes strong and reliable, the other is rendered weak and unsafe.

In event of invasion there are no sacrifices and privations which must not be submitted to. The enemy should see himself encircled by a wall of smoke by day and by a flame of fire at night. Russia has set us an example which has made her history memorable: wherever an enemy turns his foot in Russia he finds burnt homesteads, empty storehouses, deserted and wasted fields, and useless wells, for the Cossack has covered his retreat with destruction. I remember stopping at a German

settlement called Rosenthal, near Odessa, for a few days, and ascertaining, among other things, in the course of conversation, that, before the last year of the war, the people had not been permitted to sow any seed, lest the enemy should land, and march through their country. In the same war, the Government received gratuitously the assistance of nearly one million volunteers, whose services in the field were not required, though they were of use in guarding communications, and escorting provisions, and such duties.

Of the ultimate fate of an invading army in England I have no manner of doubt, but that fate would be very small compensation for the destruction of the inviolability of our soil. It has been said that "in despotic states the armies alone engage in war. They generally fight dispassionately, and consequently very ill, unless they are animated by the spirit of fanaticism, which is almost the only one of which they are susceptible. The people take no interest in the dispute, provided neither their custom nor their religion is violated. Sometimes they even offer up secret prayers for the fall of a throne which oppresses them, and extend their arms to the enemies of their tyrant as deliverers. Republics, on the contrary, are defended by the love of their citizens—in them war becomes national. The armies are supported and supplied by the whole population; every one takes up arms and fights for the most valuable of all possessions—political liberty. In the former, one battle is enough to overthrow an empire, for despotic government being essentially military, has no support but the army. As soon as that is destroyed, the throne falls, but the conqueror erects another on its ruins, whilst the nation offers no opposition. Republicans develop an energy of character and of will

“ in their defences on which the victories of their “ enemies can make no impression.” To all intents and purposes we may consider ourselves republicans in the possession of those qualities to which the antagonist of the great Emperor has adverted; but history tells us of many republics which were trodden down by the soldiers of despotic conquerors, and there is no ruler so despotic as he who is chosen by the voice of his people without reserve or stipulation. Napoleon, whom we are now obliged to call the First, in reference to the above passage, remarked that it was not true; for that Parthia under Arsaces, Prussia under Frederic, and Russia under Alexander, were despotic countries. Achaia and Ætolia in the time of Paulus Emilius, Holland in 1786, Venice in 1797, Switzerland in 1798, were republics. “ Should a victorious army ever enter London, the world would be astonished at the trifling resistance which would be offered by the English people.”

Mr. Drummond has declared it to be his opinion that Bonaparte never intended to invade England, and that the declaration was a feint, but for what purpose the feint was intended the excellent member does not tell us. As to the story he relates of Ney and Napoleon’s conversation, I can only say that the opinions expressed in it are in direct opposition to those entertained by Napoleon. I have already quoted a passage from Montholon; here is another, in Napoleon’s words (vol. ii. p. 223):—“The invasion of England was always regarded as practicable; and if ever the descent had been effected, *London must infallibly have been taken.* The French being in possession of the capital, a very powerful party would have arisen against the oligarchy. Did Hannibal look behind *him when he passed the Alps*, or Cæsar, when he

landed in Epirus or Africa? London is situated only a few marches from Calais, and the English army, scattered for the purpose of defending the coast, could not have joined in time to have covered that capital after the descent had been effected. This invasion could not have been effected by a *corps d'armée*, but it would certainly have succeeded with 160,000 men, if they could have presented themselves before London five days after their landing. The flotillas were the only means of landing these 160,000 men in a few hours, and of occupying all the shallows. The passage could have been effected under the protection of a squadron assembled at Martinique, and coming thence full sail to Boulogne. If this plan of rendezvous should fail one year, it might succeed another."

The Toulon squadron of 20 ships of the line, the Rochfort of 6, the l'Orient of 2, were to unite at Port Royal, whence they were to deblockade the Brest fleet of 21 ships of the line under Gantheaume, and to enter the Channel; the English fleet of 62 ships of the line being dispersed in twelve different stations. The instructions of Napoleon to Villeneuve are most precise and careful, and the preparations of all kinds were great and costly. Brest, Cherbourg, and Boulogne, were filled with provisions for the fleet; but Villeneuve and Nelson spoiled all these combinations. London is the great prize that would be aimed at, and whether we burned it ourselves, or left the task to our retreating enemies, its destruction would be the most tremendous calamity in history; it would be the fire not of a city, of a great metropolis, but it would be the conflagration of the homes of a nation. That this project was entertained I must believe, notwithstanding Mr. Drummond's incredulity; and as to its practicability, I must

say I prefer the opinion of Bonaparte to that of the enthusiastic ex-Lieut.-Colonel of the Surrey Yeomanry. As to the punishment of the invaders, I have over and over again expressed my conviction ; but if ever the homely adage, that prevention is better than cure, were true, it is in the case of such an occurrence as the violation of our soil.* Of the probability of such an event I dare not speak. Mr. Bright considers our apprehensions are groundless and foolish ; but it would be a very groundless and foolish proceeding on the part of the English people to leave their country at the mercy of a hypothesis. Why we should believe in the impossibility of the project of invasion cannot be determined on any argument ; and if the project be once set afoot, there is nothing to prevent its completion unless we take steps to do so ourselves.

Mr. Bright considers that we ought to be quite content because we pay largely for our army and navy, and that we should hold Government responsible for any calamity which may occur through the defeat of either or both ; but it would be a very small compensation, or even consolation for the burning of my house, to have the right to break a Prime Minister's windows, or to throw stones at a First Lord of the Admiralty. If with Indian and other difficulties on our hands we cannot maintain such an army in the British Isles as shall make us indifferent to any attack that may be made upon them, we must rely on the national spirit of our population in event of a war, either provoked by or forced upon us ; and great as is that spirit, it would do little to save the country in the field unless it animates our men to learn the use of arms, to be obedient, and to be self-sacrificing.

CONCLUSION.

A FEW words by way of preface to the word "finis." I am no alarmist; but I am persuaded that our professions of neutrality, accompanied by acts of distrust, may place us in a position whence escape without loss of honour, or an appeal to arms, will be impossible. When any nation has "let slip the dogs of war," it must let them run to the end. Attempt to check them ere that end comes, they will turn and rend you. We believe the French hate us. They are convinced that the English have the most unfriendly feelings towards the Gallic race. France has started on a career which the Emperor declares will terminate at the Adriatic and the Alps. Then his eagles are to be hooded, their wings clipped, their talons pared, and then they are to return to the perch. But the Imperial birds are in full flight and high in air, and who shall whistle them back again?

Already that heavy-headed, short-winded, but gallant black bird which presides over the Germanic *aquilina* is sharpening his beak, and uttering cries of defiance from the other side of the Alps, and scolding across the Rhine. And England is calling out militia, and encouraging volunteers, and hammering in every dockyard, prodigal with bounties to her sailors, and tempting with promises, and rein-

forcing her colonies, inspecting her coasts, strengthening her outlying defences and distant garrisons. Prussia mobilizes her army. Austria is fighting with troops lent to her by, or taken from, the Germanic confederation. From the quarters of the French army in Italy come the voices of Klapka and his friends to the heart of Hungary. Russia is moving down column after column to her western frontiers; her fleet and her flotillas are gathering rapidly together at Cronstadt. Here are elements of mischief—all the materials for a tremendous explosion—which neither Czar, nor Regent, nor Emperors, nor diplomatists may suppress if the smallest spark do but touch it. There is no ground for insulting the French Emperor by doubting his word; there is no reason for *distrusting* his assurances that he desires peace with England, and that he only seeks to render Italy free. But there are grounds and reasons for doubting his power and distrusting his ability to do what he promises. If Louis Napoleon desired to go to war with England he might well have done so ere he had engaged in a contest with Austria, which has already cost him the flower of his Guards and the best of his Zouaves, and which has excited the apprehensions of England and the hostility of Prussia. He would have found us eighteen months ago without an army, and with *only* the rudiments of a navy to defend our shores, and with the system of publicity which prevails in all State matters, he knew our condition as well as any English minister knew it. We see that, on his own showing, he has been forced into a war with Austria which he did not desire. Might it not happen that some act of ours would, on the same showing, oblige him to do that thing which eighteen months ago he did not wish to

do, and which indeed he would make great sacrifices to avoid? In a word, then, there is no offence to France in England taking her own part. But there is great offence in continual exhibitions of jealousy and distrust. We can well say, "We believe your intentions; but if they should by chance become adjuncts to the pavement of the Inferno, we shall be on our guard. We are excellent friends, but you and I are human beings after all; and there is an old maxim which tells us to treat our friends as if they might one day be enemies, and that we should treat our foes as though they might hereafter become our friends." Eminently sagacious, the Emperor of the French will only attempt what he feels assured he can do. The child of Destiny, his father may do with him he knows not what. But of his present intentions there ought to be no doubt; for his general policy, his promises for the future, and his deeds in the past coincide in giving us a guarantee that he will not deliberately seek a rupture with England. Honestly keeping *our* word, firmly holding *our* own, abiding by the policy of neutrality which we have solemnly "pronounced," avoiding all ground of just offence, let us see whether we, too, cannot chain "Destiny" to our car; or—if it be the will of Heaven that we fail—let us be prepared to meet the shock of battle. The infidel King whom Mr. Carlyle delights to honour, said (in defiance of history sometimes) that God always gives the victory to the strongest battalions. But battalions may be strong in numbers, and weak in moral consciousness of right. A Frenchman who sets foot in England on an unholy plea of vengeance or a false plea of wrong, would fight, no doubt, gallantly and well; but he would fight, as does the Austrian now, with the pressure of

a bad cause upon his arm. "The very weight of Richard's guilt would crush him," *after* he had desolated our fields and laid waste our cities. It is to prevent contingencies which, humanly speaking, are preventable, that we ought to arm in the face of Europe, in a spirit of strict neutrality, and stand on our own defence. God *will* defend the right.

APPENDIX.

FROM THE "RIFLE VOLUNTEERS." BY HANS BUSK.

A SHORT ABSTRACT

OF THE

*Laws at present in force relating to Volunteer Corps,
whether Infantry or Cavalry.*

ACTS previous to 44 Geo. III. c. 54, repealed by that act so far as they refer to Yeomanry and Volunteer Corps.

The Acts having reference to VOLUNTEER and YEOMANRY CORPS were consolidated by the 44th Geo. III. c. 54. The following are the principal provisions of this Act, which is at present in force:—

By § 3, Her Majesty may continue the services of all corps of Yeomanry or Volunteers accepted before the passing of that Act (5th June, 1804), and may also accept the services of any corps of Yeomanry or Volunteers that may be formed after the passing thereof, such corps respectively being formed under officers having, or who shall have, commissions either from her Majesty or any Lieutenant of a county, or any other person or persons who may be specially authorized by her Majesty for that purpose, upon such terms and conditions, and under such regulations as have been or shall be approved by her Majesty in regard to such corps. And her Majesty may disband or discontinue the services of any such corps, or any portions of such corps, whenever it may seem expedient to her Majesty to do so. Provided always that the services of all corps of Yeomanry and Volunteers accepted before the passing of that Act shall be deemed to be continued under the provisions thereof, unless her Majesty shall signify her intention of disbanding or discontinuing the services of any such corps by an order to be communicated by her Majesty's principal Secretary of State.

By § 4, Effective members of Yeomanry or Volunteer corps are exempted from service in the Militia or other additional forces, except in the case of corps whose offers of service specify that no such

exemption would be claimed, and no such exemption is to extend to any greater number than the established number of such corps.

§ 5. Only those are to be deemed effective members who have attended muster or exercise, properly armed and accoutred, if cavalry, four days, if infantry, eight days at the least in the four months immediately preceding the return required by the Act, and who have been duly returned by the commanding officer as effective members, and as having taken the oath of allegiance.

§ 6. Contains an exception when there has been a delay in supplying arms.

§ 7. The commanding officer may grant leave of absence, and such absence shall not prevent the member so obtaining it from being returned as effective, provided that during the next four months he serves as many days as shall make up for the whole period of eight months, if he is in the cavalry, eight—if in the infantry, sixteen—days' exercise. If he does not complete this, he is to be struck off the list of effective members, and to be returned in the muster-roll as non-effective.

§ 17.* Persons so returned as effective may be ballotted for the Militia, and immediately on their ceasing to be returned as effective, they are liable to serve.

§ 8.† It is sufficient, to render a man effective, that he attend during the whole year, if in the cavalry, twelve—if in the infantry, twenty-four—days within one period, or two successive periods of four months next before the return.

§ 9.‡ Commanding officers are to make a return on the first day of every April, August, and December to the clerks of lieutenantancy of the numbers of men in the corps, and of the number of supernumeraries, distinguishing between the effective and the non-effective members, of the persons who have entered the corps since the last return, of those who have been absent on leave, and of those who have been discharged from or have quitted the corps since the last return; and where any arms have been required by such corps at the expense of her Majesty, and have not been supplied, such circumstance is to be stated at the foot of the return. The commanding officer is also to send in to her Majesty's principal Secretary of State, and to the general officer commanding the district, if any, accurate returns of the effective and non-effective men in the form of the usual military returns.

§ 10. Commanding officers are required to give certificates to effective men residing in other places, which shall entitle them to exemptions therein.

§ 11. Field officers and adjutants of Volunteer Corps, and persons

* Amended by 53 Geo. III. c. 84, § 4.

† Amended to 6 days in the year, 2 days in each 4 months, or 5 successive days, 56 Geo. III. c. 39, § 1.

‡ The returns are to be sent in once a year, within 14 days of Aug. 1, 7 Geo. III. c. 55, § 2.

serving in Yeomanry or Volunteer Cavalry, are exempted from duty for horses used at muster and exercise, and also persons providing them; and all effective members of Yeomanry or Volunteer corps from the hair-powder duty.

§ 12. No corps is to be entitled to exemptions unless the commanding officer certify in the muster-rolls that it has been, or has been ready to be, inspected.

§ 13. No toll is to be demanded for any horse ridden by any person in any corps of Yeomanry, or by any field or staff-officer of Volunteers going to exercise, &c., dressed in uniform, and armed and accoutred.

§ 15. Commanding officers making false returns, or giving false certificates, are subjected to a penalty of 200*l.* for every offence.

§ 20. Every person enrolled is to take the oath* of allegiance, which may be administered by any deputy-lieutenant, justice of the peace, or commissioned officer of the corps.

§ 21. Adjutants, serjeant-majors, and others who are receiving constant pay, are subject to the Mutiny Act and to the Articles of War; every court-martial in such case is to be composed wholly of members taken from the Yeomanry or Volunteer establishment, and no punishment is to extend to life or limb, except when the corps is called out in case of an invasion.

§ 22. In all cases of actual invasion, or appearance of an enemy in force on the coast of Great Britain, or of rebellion or insurrection arising or existing within the same, all corps of Yeomanry or Volunteers shall, whenever they shall be summoned by the lieutenants of the counties in which they shall be respectively formed, or their vice-lieutenants or deputy-lieutenants, or upon the making of any general signals of alarm, forthwith assemble within their respective districts, and shall be liable to march according to the terms and conditions of their respective services, whether the same shall extend to any part of Great Britain, or be limited to any district, county, city, town, or place therein; and all persons then enrolled in any such corps, not labouring under any infirmity incapacitating them from military service, and not holding a commission or serving in any of her Majesty's other forces, or in any other such corps of Yeomanry or Volunteers, and actually joining such corps, who shall refuse or neglect to join their respective corps, and to assemble and march therewith, upon any such summons or general signal of alarm as aforesaid, shall be deemed deserters, and shall be subject to punishment as such; and all such corps of Yeomanry or Volunteers, and all officers and non-commissioned officers, drummers, and private men

* The following is the form of oath:—"I, A—B—, do make oath, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to her Majesty, her heirs and successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend her Majesty, her heirs and successors, in person, crown, and dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of her Majesty, her heirs and successors, and of the generals and officers set over me. So help me God.

"Sworn before me, C—D—, this — day of —, 1888."

therein, shall, upon and from the time of such summons, or of such general signals of alarm being made as aforesaid, and until the enemy shall be defeated and expelled, and all rebellion or insurrection then existing within Great Britain shall be suppressed (the same to be signified by her Majesty's proclamation), continue and be subject to all the provisions contained in any Act of Parliament then in force for the punishment of mutiny and desertion, and for the better payment of the army and their quarters, and to any Articles of War made in pursuance thereof in all cases whatever.

§ 23. Whenever any corps of Yeomanry or Volunteers shall, with the approbation of her Majesty, signified through her principal Secretary of State, voluntarily assemble or march to do military duty upon any appearance of invasion, or for the purpose of improving themselves in military exercise, except in the case hereinafter specified as to corps of yeomanry cavalry, or shall voluntarily march on being called upon in pursuance of any order from the lieutenant or sheriff of the county, to act within the county or adjacent counties for the suppression of riots or tumults, all such corps of Yeomanry or Volunteers shall, in all such cases, from the time of so assembling or marching as aforesaid, and during the period of their remaining on such military duty, or being engaged in such service as aforesaid, be subjected to military discipline and to all the provisions of any Act then in force for the punishment of mutiny and desertion, and for the better payment of the army, and their quarters, and to any Articles of War made in pursuance thereof.

§ 24. Her Majesty may put such corps under the command of such general officer as she shall appoint; but such corps shall be led by their respective officers, and no effective member shall be liable to be placed in any other regiment.

§ 25. No officer of Volunteers is to sit on the trial of any officer or soldier of the other forces, and contrariwise.

§ 26. All officers in corps of Yeomanry or Volunteers having commissions from her Majesty, or lieutenants of counties, or others who may be specially authorized by her Majesty for that purpose, shall rank with the officers of her Majesty's Regular and Militia forces, as the youngest of their respective ranks.

§ 27. Commanding officers of Yeomanry or Volunteer corps, when not on actual service, may discharge members, not being commissioned officers, for disobedience of orders, &c.

§ 28. When the regulations of a corps do not provide for any case of misconduct under arms, the commanding officer may disallow the day on which the party misconducted himself as a day of attendance.

§ 29. Persons misconducting themselves during exercise may be ordered into custody for the time during which the corps remains under arms.

§§ 30 and 31. Persons enrolled as Volunteers may quit their corps, except when called out in cases of invasion, &c., except the persons

receiving the constant pay of their rank. None can quit, however, without notice of their intention to quit, nor till their arms, &c., shall have been delivered up, and all fines paid, unless by enlisting in her Majesty's forces, or being enrolled in the Militia.

§ 33. Persons thinking themselves aggrieved by the commanding officer refusing to strike their names out of the muster-rolls, may appeal to two deputy-lieutenants, or one and a justice, who may determine the same.

§ 36. When Volunteers are assembled on summons of the county lieutenant, &c., or on a general signal of alarm, the receiver-general of the duties under the commissioners for taxes in England, and the collector of the cess in Scotland, are to pay to the captain of the troop or company two guineas for the use of every Volunteer in such troop or company who shall so assemble, and, when voluntarily assembled, the Treasury may order a guinea for each to be paid in like manner. The captains are to account to the men for money, and not to draw any for the use of men not desiring it.

§§ 37 and 38. Volunteers, when assembled on invasion, &c., are entitled to receive pay, and to be billeted as other forces, and their families are entitled to the same relief as the families of Militiamen.

§ 39. After the defeat and expulsion of the enemy, and after the suppression of any rebellion or insurrection, the Volunteers are to be returned to their respective counties, and a guinea paid to each man willing to receive it.

§ 40. Commissioned officers disabled in service, are entitled to half-pay, and non-commissioned officers and privates to Chelsea Hospital; and widows of officers killed in service to pensions for life.

§ 41.* Half-pay may be received by adjutants and quartermasters on taking the oath that they have not any place or employment of profit, civil or military, under her Majesty.

§ 42.† Commanding officers may appoint places for depositing arms and accoutrements, and persons to take care of them; and the deputy-lieutenants shall view them; and the expense shall be paid in England by the receiver-general of the county.

§ 44. In case any man shall sell, pawn, or lose any arms, accoutrements, clothing, or ammunition delivered to him, or shall wilfully damage any such arms or accoutrements, every such man shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding forty shillings and if not paid, the party may be committed.

§ 46. When corps of cavalry shall be desirous of assembling under the command of their own officers, the county-lieutenant, with the approbation of her Majesty, may make an order for that purpose, and an order to any justice of the county, who shall issue his precept for billeting the non-commissioned officers and privates as her Majesty's

* An officer on half-pay, however, does not forfeit it by reason of his holding a commission in the Yeomanry, and receiving pay as such, 57 Geo. III. c. 44, § 2.

† By the Secretary of War, 7 Geo. II. c. 58, § 4.

forces may be billeted; but corps so assembled shall not be subjected to the mutiny laws.

§ 47. The Acts for billeting her Majesty's forces extend to such corps when billeted.

§ 48. When the lieutenant has fixed the day and place of exercise for Yeomanry or Volunteer corps, he is to certify the same to the Secretary-at-War.

§ 50. The property in subscriptions, arms, &c., is vested in the commanding officer for all purposes of indictments or suits.

§ 51. If subscriptions or fines be not paid, a justice of the peace may direct double the amount to be paid, which may be levied by distress.

§ 56. No future rules or regulations are to be valid or binding on any corps of Yeomanry or Volunteers, unless submitted to the principal Secretary of State, and not disallowed by her Majesty.

§ 58. The acceptance of a commission in any corps of Yeomanry or Volunteers does not vacate a seat in Parliament.

§ 60. Provisions relating to corps are to extend to independent troops or companies.

THE END.

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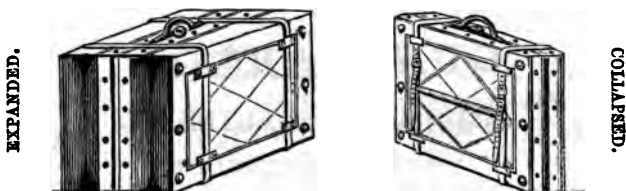
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